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## Colonial Village Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes (CVNA)

*January 17, 2007*

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President, Anita Beavers, called the meeting to order. Other board members in attendance were Mike Morofsky, Greg Kozak, Anne Wilson, Thelma Dempsey and Willie Vinson. Twenty-five CVNA members and guests attended the meeting, including Carol Wood, Lansing City Council; Josh Hovey, Staff Assistant, Mayor's Office; Victor Celentino and Dale Copedge, Ingham County Commission; and Dennis Meersdom, Manager, L&L Food Center. Members of the Association thanked Mr. Meersdom and L&L for the donation of refreshments. Anita Beavers introduced Rev. Jane Ellen, the new minister of Grace United Methodist Church.

**Lansing Police Department Report:** Officer Dennis Bunch represented the South Precinct and distributed copies of an offense map for the following areas: Moores River to Holmes Road and Washington to Waverly Road. He wanted to call everyone's attention to a noted increase in Breaking & Entering offenses of homes (10) in the area during the month of January. Investigating officers know the crimes are being committed by two or more people because they are targeting large items and the use of a vehicle is involved. Officer Bunch asked residents to be on the look out for strange vehicles in the neighborhood and don't hesitate to call 911 if anything unusual is seen. Eaton County was featured on the 6 p.m. news for the same problem. Officer Bunch cautioned everyone to keep doors of your home and cars locked. Neighbors reported a car ran into a fence located on Boston Blvd. The incident is being investigated, but it is believed that it was due to a domestic argument.

**Program:** Ken Szymusiak, Director South Lansing Economic Development (SLEC), worked with Kathy Dunbar and the South Lansing Community Development Association prior to joining the Economic Development Association in November. Since joining SLEC he has been in the process of visiting all businesses located in the southern part of Lansing. He said that 60% of Lansing's land lies in the southern part of Lansing. He has been proactively visiting all businesses located in South Lansing to get a handle on what businesses currently exists there, what type businesses the area will best support as well as what, if any, problems the existing businesses are experiencing. In addition to visiting businesses, Ken who has a real estate background is applying his real estate skills in his work. He is identifying redevelopment opportunities and City provided business incentives for the Martin Luther King Blvd. and Holmes area.

Ken also identified some positives that exist in the south part of Lansing. He said many areas are doing quite well. A few of these areas are listed here. For example, the Industrial area located in the Miller Rd. & Pennsylvania area, Jolly Road to Cavanaugh area, and the Edgewood Blvd. area are all doing very well. He said Lansing Mall is not included in this assessment because it is located in Delta Township and is not considered Lansing.

He shared some of the action points for the projects on which he is working. I-96 / Pennsylvania (American Ave. – Edgewood) reconfigure the whole area - Changes to be pro business and pro resident. He is proactively working on the Brown field program as well as the sites that have been contaminated to identify possible avenues to clean up redevelop & re-utilize these properties. He wants to create synergy between businesses located downtown with south Lansing.

Ken asked the residents of Colonial Village to contact him with suggestions of what type of businesses should go in the area and/or any other suggestions they may have for stimulating growth in the area. He is also looking into creating branding for various areas .i.e. Colonial Village, Old Town, Rio Town. He is also working to develop pools of money to pour back into businesses for the purpose of revitalization/upgrades and to reward businesses for locating in the area.

**Minutes:** November 2006 meeting minutes were accepted as presented. No December meeting was held due to the holidays.

**Treasurer's Report:** Thelma Dempsey presented the budget. Previous balance \$476.13 + \$65.85 income – (\$217.94 expenses = current balance \$324.04. Expenses included the cost of Printing Newsletters, donations to Grace Methodist Church and New Home Missionary Baptist Church and to a neighbor on Cooper (house fire). In addition, an "In-kind" donation (\$18.31) of snacks was also received for Candidates Night.

**Vice President Report:** Anne Wilson, chair of the Holiday Home Lighting Contest committee, announced the winners and awarded prizes to the winners. First Place winner of a \$25.00 L & L Food Center gift certificate was Lisa Callahan, 2203 Wellington; Second place winner of a \$20 Rite Aid gift certificate was Christopher & Raylin Sleeper, 1312 Woodbine; Third place winner of \$10 Hollywood Video gift certificate was Marie Barnett, 2418 Wellington; and Fourth place winner of \$10, 1932 Rockway – Reninda Ayles. Anne congratulated the winners, thanked the committee and everyone who telephoned their votes in to her for their help.

Elmhurst School is still looking for volunteers to help at the school. They are also still collecting box tops for education. You can bring your box tops to the next CVNA meeting or drop them off at the school.

**President Report:** Anita Beavers welcomed Mary Bechtol, the newly appointed Area 3 Representative, as a new member of the CVNA Board. New Home Missionary Baptist Church members were thanked for volunteering to hang and take down the red bows on Boston Ave. CVNA's membership was invited to attend the Bea Christy Award dinner which will be held February 23, 2007 at the Lansing Center. Tickets cost \$16.00. See Anita Beavers for tickets.

CVNA needs volunteers to help on various committees. The telephone calling committee, the refreshment committee and other committees are in need of helpers. In December, a single mom and her three children were displaced from their home due to a fire. Some CVNA members got together and made a donation to the family.

**Area One:** Michael Morofsky shared information about a composting class which will be held at Fenner Arboretum. He also said he is still working on a few street light issues. Carol Wood asked him to let her know the locations.

**Area Two:** The area position has been filled by Mary Bechtol.

**Area Three:** Greg Kozak led a discussion about the construction of a house located on Gordon Ave., across from Elmhurst School, that is being structurally remodeled.

**Lansing City Council** – Carol Woods reported that 16 people applied for the council seat vacated by Joan Bauer. Representative Bauer was elected to replace Representative Michael Murphy. Interviews can be seen January 22 and 23 on TV, Channel 12 at 6 p.m. They expect to be doing final questioning of people by January 24 in time to be sworn in during next regular council meeting. Carol distributed a new list of Council committee assignments.

**Ingham County Commission** – Victor Celentino gave an update on County issues and announced the retirement of a Commissioner. The newly hired controller left the County and returned to his previous position with the State of Michigan. They are in the process of filling the position. Dale Copedge reported on his involvement with the Land Bank Authority and the City of Lansing. They re-hab property and place the property back on the market for sale. The Silver Dollar is one of the properties. He also thanked everyone for their election support.

**Lansing City Mayor's Office** – Josh Hovey, Staff Assistant to the Mayor, introduced himself and reported that the South Side Community Center Committee has narrowed their site recommendation down to two possible locations. The City is working with the School District on one of the locations and they hope to soon make a final decision. The next committee meeting will be held Friday, 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Office. It is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend. He also reported that he is working on the School for the Blind (located on the north side of the city) revitalization project.

**Drawing:**

1. Janet Anderson - Bea Christy Awards Dinner at the Lansing Center
2. Virginia Mackie - Bea Christy Awards Dinner at the Lansing Center
3. Gordon Swix – Gift Certificate for Car Wash, Wash World
- 4.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM.