

Minutes of the East Lansing Pinecrest Neighborhood Association Meeting
Monday February 25, 2008
7 PM, Pinecrest School

Meeting opened at 7:02 PM

Officers present: President John Goddeeris, Vice President Doug Nordhaus, Treasurer Steve Ueberroth, Secretary Doug Pearsall, Member at Large AnnMarie Schneider

Approximately 35 other residents present

Special Meeting Topic: Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Improvements to Fine Park

Presented by East Lansing Parks, Recreation and Arts Director Tim McCaffrey and Assistant Director Wendy Wilmers-Longpre

City of East Lansing is considering submitting a proposal to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to cover the cost of improvements to Fine Park. Improvements being considered include:

- Tennis Courts: resurface and surround with fencing
- Parking areas on Winchester and Gilcrest are both gravel and could be upgraded to pavement
- Repair areas of erosion along county drain
- Replace and update city-owned playground equipment
- Upgrade trail from Gilcrest parking area through woods and across Sharey Zadek property to connect to Coolidge Rd; integrate this trail into Northern Tier Trail System. Would include raising the grade, paving, and installing a bridge over the drain between Sharey Zadek and Park
- Possibly improve fence around pond area

After the presentation, Wendy Wilmers-Longpre took comments from residents. The following is a summary of those comments:

- Unanimous opposition to paving and upgrading the trail. Concerns included the likely increase in partying by minors, vehicles accessing paved trail, lack of maintenance of trail, destruction of wetlands by trail construction, and ruining the peaceful and natural character of the park, which residents enjoy very much. Residents distributed a letter from attorney and resident Lynn Richardson, which voiced multiple concerns echoed by other residents.
- Some residents suggested closing the Gilcrest parking area entirely to limit undesirable uses.
- Unanimous support for resurfacing and installing fence completely surrounding tennis courts. These tennis courts are very popular, and players often have to wait for a court. Suggestion to add a third court as well.
- Support for replacing playground equipment

- Confusion regarding need to repair county drain—(isn't that the County's responsibility?)—Wendy explained that the Drain Commissioner would likely bill the City for any repairs anyway, so may as well fix
- Much discussion of the pond, including suggestions to make it more accessible, and even to stock with bass. Wendy acknowledged the difficulty of striking a balance between providing access and ensuring safety. Residents pointed out that the existing fence does not keep people out.
- Another suggestion was to restore the natural character of the woodland by controlling invasive species such as common buckthorn, which is rampant and is suppressing regeneration of native trees and shrubs.
- Other suggestions included setting up a bluebird trail, and installing bat houses and purple martin houses to help control mosquitoes.

Wendy and Tim concluded by pointing out that the trail improvement would be a key factor in increasing the chances of getting a Trust Fund grant, and that they would need to reconsider even applying given the local opposition. They will be in contact and likely will hold another meeting in Pinecrest in the coming months.

Regular meeting:

Minutes from 09/24/2007 were not provided

Treasurer report: Steve Ueberroth reported that the current balance is slightly more than \$1,000

Elections: Nominations were approved for officer positions as follows:

- VP—Doug Nordhaus, who is currently filling the remainder of the term vacated by Dick Hanna;
- Treasurer—Steve Ueberroth will seek re-election
- Member at Large—AnnMarie Schneider will seek re-election (though noting that she welcomes other interested residents to take over if interested)

Notice will appear in next Pinecrest Post at least two weeks prior to Annual Meeting

Recap of Recent Activities:

- Halloween Parade—This fourth annual event, held on 10/28, was a great success. Pictures are on the Pinecrest website.

Future Activities:

- Summer Picnic—will schedule for some time in July, based on availability of Kiwanis band.
- Garage Sale—tentatively set for June 14th; Mike V will solicit alternative dates via e-mail list and, if one seems to be more popular, we will reschedule
- Bike Parade—will be June 7th.
- Possibly invite Urban Options to make a presentation at next ELPNA meeting, or at least post information on energy conservation practices on the website

Other Business:

- Mike V will summarize account of collapsed sewer line on Ramblewood, encouraging residents to be aware of the possibility of similar problems in houses of the same age
- Meijer gas station—John G verified that the issue is dead

Next Newsletter:

- Will cover elections and will include an envelope and flyer for collecting dues
- Will need to be distributed by 3rd week of March

Next meeting will be Monday, April 14th, 2008, at Pinecrest School

Meeting adjourned 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Doug Pearsall, February 27, 2008.