

## **Meadowcrest Estates Neighborhood Association**

Meeting Minutes  
General Membership Meeting  
July 23, 2009

Minutes Prepared by: Richard Bach  
Secretary/Treasurer

### **Meeting Agenda**

1. Crime Watch Update
2. Special Use Permit for Shopping Center on Beltline Rd.
3. Adding Additional Board Members
4. Creation of New Subcommittees
  - a. Neighborhood Beautification
  - b. National Night Out
  - c. Neighborhood Infrastructure
5. City Councilman Darren Lathen

### **Meeting Report**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Troyer at 7:05pm.

#### **Crime Watch**

Jim provided a crime watch update for Jerome Sistrunk, Crime Watch Coordinator, since Jerome could not be present. Jim noted that the crimes in our neighborhood are mostly crimes of opportunity: valuables left in cars, open garage doors, unlocked fence gates, etc. Jim also noted it is important to report crime incidents to the police since they use the reports to determine where to put most of their patrol efforts. He mentioned the need for crime watch block captains and called for volunteers.

#### **Specific Use Permit**

The Specific Use Permit ("SUP") for the shopping center "theater" was discussed. Pat Cruse provided an update. She attended the Planning Commission meeting and also spoke to the owner of the facility. The Planning Commission approved the SUP. The SUP now goes to the city council for consideration on Aug. 4. The facility is to be used as a restaurant and reception facility. The owner has revitalized two existing shopping centers: one on Garland Rd. in Dallas; the other on Jupiter Rd. in Plano. He is willing to work with the neighborhood. The neighbors on Grasmere would like to see a fence or a wall separate the shopping center from their alley to discourage foot traffic behind their homes, through their yards and into the neighborhood.

A meeting is planned with Mr. Chong Na (Johnny) and the MENA board members. Additional information will be provided to the neighborhood after this meeting.

### New Board Members

Jim asked the membership to approve two additional board members. He noted that the board was proposing three new sub-committees and the bylaws stated that board members are needed to head sub-committees. Therefore, more board members would be helpful. Maud Taylor and Judi Lazerus were put forth as candidates and approved by voice acclamation. There were no objections.

### New Sub-committees

Jim told the group the board would like to set up the following three subcommittees:

- Neighborhood Beautification
- National Night Out Block Party
- Neighborhood Infrastructure

After a brief discussion on the purpose of these committees, the board took an action to write descriptions for each committee and send them to the membership through the email list. Chairpersons and sub-committee members have not yet been chosen. Once the descriptions are sent out, a call for sub-committee volunteers will go out. The National Night Out Block Party committee is the most urgent since National Night Out takes place the first week in October.

### Councilman Darren Lathen

Councilman Darren Lathen graciously took time out of his schedule to come to our meeting. He made a few remarks and took questions from the members. He talked about the city budget. The budget will be down this year due to the economic down turn that reduced the property tax base and sales tax revenue. The city is making cut backs. It doesn't expect to layoff any city staff. However, vacant positions aren't being filled and city employees may be asked to take several days of unpaid leave.

Mr. Lathen commented on the SUP. He said the council will most likely approve it since there are no grounds not to at this time. Noting the owner of the facility agreed to meet with the board members, he said he could get the council vote delayed by one meeting if the owner wasn't responsive in meeting with the board. He noted that he and the city wanted to avoid the problems they had with the sports bar.

Mr. Lathen talked about code compliance and new city initiatives to be more proactive. He responded to many questions. With regard to additional street lights, he provided info how we could go about getting improved street lights for the neighborhood. Lower speed limits on Garland Rd. between Buckingham and Beltline were discussed. The brick wall and who is responsible for its maintenance were discussed with no conclusion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Attendance:

- Board Members
  - Jim Troyer – President
  - Pat Cruse – Vice President
  - Richard Bach – Secretary/Treasurer
- 24 members were present
- Guest: Councilman Darren Lathen

These minutes were reviewed and approved by the board of directors via email on August 03, 2009