

Muskegon Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
Woodcliffe Association – COVID-19 Edition
July 16, 2020

Meeting began at 6:05 pm with prayer by Michael Bradford.

Larry Fife discussed:

- The border/boundaries of the Woodcliffe area
- Covid cases in the Muskegon Heights Area (male v female/black v white)

Upcoming Election (Velma Shay)

- Voter registration deadline is 15 days before election day. You can still register to vote and vote on election day.
- Absentee voting – all eligible voters in Michigan can now request an absentee voter ballot. One may request a ballot by completing an on-line application at Michigan.gov/vote or to the City Clerks office.

Committee Updates

Newsletter - Larry wants everyone to receive a newsletter. Please share any information you'd like to see in the newsletter with Larry Fife or Angela Johnson.

Website: Polls indicate that residents of the neighborhood are interested in a website. A website is currently being created for the neighborhood as well as the Muskegon Heights Neighborhood Council. Once the site is completed, a meeting will be arranged to educate users on how to use the site.

Virtual Cleanup –

- Yard of the Month for June announced.
- Yard of the Month for July announced.
- Officers needed for the WNA (V.P. & Treasurer). Please help
- Block Captains needed. New Block Captain assigned for Overbrook Dr. (Marquis Childers).
- Bylaws sent a few months ago. Residents please share any issues you may have.

Police Chief Thomas & Walter Watt addressed questions submitted by residents.

- Police Officer will likely be assigned after he/she completes the academy
- There is drug trafficking on Woodcliffe Drive between Overbrook & Lincoln. The police are aware of who this person is. Activity is being monitored by surveillance cameras that are located throughout the community.
- Efforts are being made to address the vacant buildings throughout the community/city. The City is working to collect a \$500 fee from every homeowner who is not adhering to the ordinances regarding the upkeep of their property. Those funds can be used to clean-up the city.

- Downtown Development Authority (DDA) & Ravenna Baptist Church volunteers cleaned up downtown Muskegon Heights this week. DDA is also working to get grants to beautify downtown although funding has been slashed due to Covid-19. Other projects are to encourage new home development where there's solid homeownership, home improvement entrepreneurs
- What can be done with business owners who do not keep up their property? Citation, tagging, liens, and working closely with the inspection dept. The City will be releasing information next week that will require community help.
- Water Bill – fees have not been raised to-date but there will be a \$3.00 County increase effective August 1.
- Process to add speed bumps – Must be a state/county study to install speed bumps. To date, the study has not been ordered.
- So far, there are no plans to implement recycling in Muskegon Heights at this time (too costly). Since Covid-19, state revenue has decreased approximately 50%.
- What are most needed city volunteer positions? Blight and clean-up (going after those who own the vacant properties). So far this year about 25-30 owners have paid their fee.

Social Committee:

- Looking for flower pots like those on Sherman to be placed in designated areas around the City.
- Welcome packet for new residents who have located in the community will be available by the end of July.
- Newsletter recommendations:
 - Salute to healthcare heroes (Ms. Watson, Ms. Leggitt, and Regina Banks.
 - Express condolences to bereaved families.
- No block party will be held this year due to Covid-19.

Congratulations were given to Larry Fife for being voted senior volunteer of the year by United Way of the Lakeshore.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm with prayer by Michael Bradford.