

Des Moines Neighbors Monthly Meeting

When: Thursday March 25, 2010

Time: 7:00pm

Where: Mickle Center 1620 Pleasant St.

Speaker: At-Large City Councilman Skip Moore

Topic: Q & A related to Council and the City of Des Moines



Des Moines Neighborhood Wish List

By: Harlan Donaldson At Large Board DMN

March 25th will be your neighborhoods' chance to meet with our newest at large councilman, Skip Moore. It will be an opportunity to ask him if the new job is everything he thought it would be, and what he has discovered that he didn't think he would. The answers may not be as candid as expected if the Mayor (who's also invited) is in attendance.

More seriously, it is an opportunity for each of our neighborhoods to put forth a wish list to the city. I am suggesting that each neighborhood list their needs on two sheets of paper. One of which will be given to each guest to take back with them. We will try to cover as much as possible within the meeting, but assuming 50 neighborhoods with only 3 items each they all could not possibly be addressed in that short time.

It is an opportunity as well to sound out what our city stands to lose in services due to its financial straits. And given that, we as neighborhoods need to address and offer service to the city to ease the shortfalls. What can you neighborhood do to help itself?

50 plus neighborhoods sending say two persons to the meeting.... We're going to need all of the chairs in the building. See you all there on the 25th.

It looks like spring is finally here and the threat of snow is all but gone. But with that comes the risk of flooding, again! What a trade off. I hope you are staying dry.

This month I'll provide you with an update on the Bus Bench issue.

At the March 8th City Council meeting, the new Bus Bench contract was presented.

Most of the discussion centered on the current bench owner's lack of snow removal within the

required time frame this winter. The new contract didn't address this or how the city could gain compliance. The City Council decided to send this contract back to staff for a revision that included a fine structure, encouraging timely snow removal.

One item that caught my eye is the change in our long standing "clear the snow by" time frame. While all properties in Des Moines have 48 hours to clear their sidewalks after the end of a snow event, the Bus Bench operator will be given an extra grace

Notes from the Neighborhoods

By: Brian Millard

period. The 48 hour clock will start "when the plows leave the road". Most benches are located past the sidewalk, so one has to wonder if the property owners will be afforded the same extended grace period. *To date, 1,300 properties*

received a fine but not a single fine for an unshoveled bus bench.

Another item of interest is the bench operator's intention to place the benches at an angle facing traffic. The primary purpose of this is to allow the "Bus Bench Billboards" (as Councilman Coleman coined them) be easier seen by the passing motorist.

It was voiced by one council member that bus riders enjoy facing the traffic. *I don't know about everyone else, but the last thing I wanted to do when waiting for a bus was to face cars as*

they were passing by. Wouldn't you think a neighborhood survey and a DART rider survey would be a good way to gauge the public's preference?

It does seem we may be stuck with the current type of bench. We had asked to be a part of the process early on but city staff chose the current design. It was pointed out that the new benches allow water to pool on the grooves on the seat and the raised dividers do not afford some bus rider a comfortable place to sit. The only defense offered regarding the current design is that people can't sleep on them. When benches with trash cans were mentioned, it was reported that they would cause more trash in the surrounding area. *I would think a trash can emptied by the bench operator weekly would reduce trash in our neighborhoods.*

I'll keep you updated!

Des Moines Neighbors Board of Directors:

Chairman: _____ Vice Chairman: _____ Treasurer: _____ At-Large: _____ At-Large: _____ At-Large: _____



In attendance: Don Vines, Jane Lithicum, Joanne Hanover, Leander Harral, Lee Dawson, Marge Ramsey, Paul Sadler, Harlan Donaldson, Dutch Jones, Carole, Jones, Lynn Cutshall, Lorraine Eldridge, Mark White

Approval of Agenda: Joanne Hanover, Lynn Cutshall

Approval of Minutes: Harlan Donaldson, Paul Sadler

Guest Speaker: Greg Cloe, City of Des Moines Public Works

Discussion regarding 2009 stats and 2010 SCRUB days!

Changes:

Metro Waste Authority will open up the Metro east landfill on SCRUB Saturdays. DSM residents can haul trash and there won't be a charge.

Questions:

Would more volunteers help to reduce the lines at the transfer stations

they may help some, but the lines will most likely run pretty long.

Phone Number: 237-1398 phone number to reach him.

Any developments with an electronics only dumpster?

There are a couple new things happening at the Waveland Park SCRUB at Roosevelt. May proceed on a pilot basis to make it more of a recycling event than a garbage event.

Still being proposed, not finalized.

South Side SCRUB day – Pioneer Park Is there some type of directional signage to use that day?

Recommend touching base about a month before the event to talk over some type of signage they can get.

Discussion about recycling and our contracts vs. Metro Waste in the suburbs.

Discussion about small business and n on profits getting recycling bins. One of the sanitation goals is to increase the recycling efforts taking place in the metro.

Neighborhood Resource Office Report

NRLC Program Fall Classes-Kimberly Hansen

Des Moines Neighbors Report

Cookbook Fundraiser

Treasurers Report \$1, 791.96

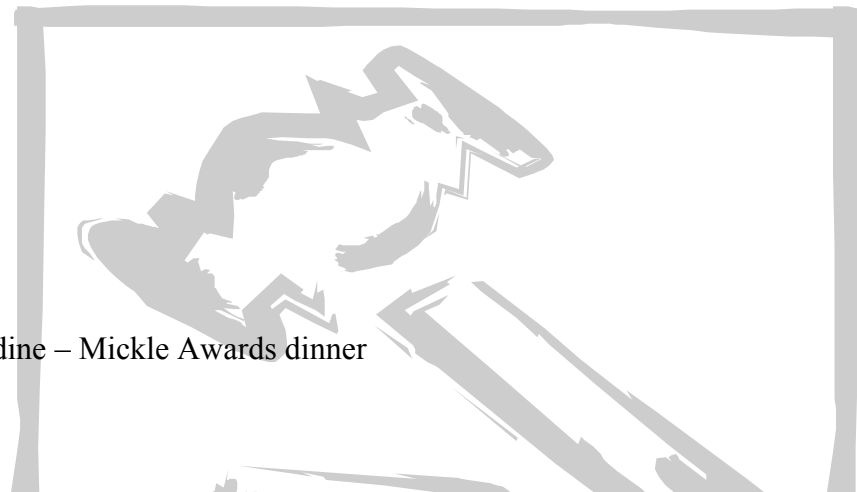
New Business

Alice Rodine Dinner to be changed to Alice Rodine – Mickle Awards dinner

Motion: Harlan Donaldson

Second: Carole Jones

Old Business



Valley High Manor- 2nd annual potluck had more than double the attendance than they had last year.

Discussion of using COPS system & how it would work .

2009 Des Moines Police Annual Reports are now available.

National Night Out 1st Thursday in August

Capitol Park had their annual potluck in January. East High School came and performed.

Pioneer Park Neighborhood- Apartments and rental are more involved now and has made a huge impact on their neighborhood.

Adjourn 8:02 pm

motion: Paul Sadler

Second: Harlan Donaldson