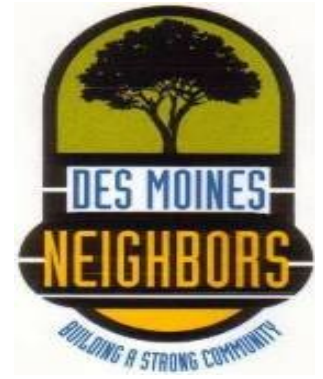


DES MOINES NEIGHBORS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010



Des Moines Neighbors Monthly Meeting

When: Thursday January 28, 2010

Time: 7:00pm

Where: Mickle Center 1620 Pleasant St.

Speaker: Sergeant Joe Gonzalez

Topic: Neighborhood Based Service Delivery Program Changes

Update on Bus Benches

by Brian L. Millard

A lot has happened since the bus bench presentation months ago so I'd like to bring everyone up to date. The Bus Bench owner has been slow to remove snow from around and to the curb within 48 hours after a snowfall. After one snow, many benches went untouched for ten days. This slow response was mirrored in subsequent snowfalls.

Another concern has been the installation of the plastic/composite type of bench that have started sprouting up in the city. The bench company has installed them at an angle facing traffic, not parallel to the street as required by our current ordinance. This causes the public to have to face oncoming cars. I am advised this was done without permission from the city yet the operator has not been required to install them properly.

The final concern voice of late is how the bench seats are molded in such a way that they divide the bench seating area and they also hold water in the seat area. Both have caused discomfort to bench users. Des Moines Neighbors and this



writer has asked for the public to be given a chance to give input regarding bench type and design but that has not occurred.

City Staff has been in negotiations with this owner but there has been no information regarding tighter

regulation of snow removal or fines and penalties for not meeting the ordinance requirements. The latest advisory from city staff is that they intend to update the out of state owner when the city has completed plowing the arterials so they can commence clearing the snow. No word on if that allows the bench operator to go past the 48 hour deadline imposed by current ordinance.

Please remember, property owners in Des Moines are required to clear all sidewalks with 48 hours of a snow. If this is not accomplished, a fine can be levied from \$50 for a first time violation all the way up to \$100 for the third. Shouldn't the bus bench operator be held to the same standard?

Thank you to everyone who attended our 2009 Holiday Potluck!

A special thanks goes out to Pat Kozitka for his program presentation!



A great time was had by all and we look forward to seeing you all in the Spring at the Alice Rodine Awards



Des Moines Neighbors Cookbooks Are NOW AVAILABLE

The long awaited Des Moines Neighbors Cookbook is now available for purchase

Cost: \$12.00

Books will be sold at various locations around the city including Dahls on Ingersoll. They can also be purchased through the board members of Des Moines Neighbors and at the general Des Moines Neighbors meeting the 4th Thursday of the month.

Des Moines Neighbors Board of Directors:

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Minutes
Des Moines Neighbors General Meeting
September 24th 2009 7:00pm
Mickle Center

In attendance: Don Vines, Larry Rogers, Lynn Cutshall, Leander Harral, Jane Linthucum, David Stephenson, Jo Ann Hanover, Brian Millard, Cindy Christian

NRO Staff: Shallee Keenan, Kimberly Hansen

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Cindy Christian

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda: B. Millard

Second: L. Cutshall

Corrections to minutes:

Spelling of B. Millard's & Roger Dorem's was corrected

It was also added that there was a discussion about forming a committee in order to discuss the weed issue in Des Moines.

Motion to approve the minutes from July 2009 with corrections:

Second by: B. Millard

Motion Carries: H. Donaldson

Guest Speaker:

Gary Fox – Des Moines Traffic and Engineering

Mr. Fox discussed the new bus benches and the company that will soon be taking over the bench operations throughout Des Moines.

Discussion about the different aspects of the change in the bus benches these include the types of benches, the companies, the contract and advertising on the benches and the locations etc.

Questions were answered about locations, whether visual images of the benches will be available at the council meeting, snow removal and a number of other things.

They will not be allowed to take out current benches that have been put in by neighborhood etc.

There was a brief discussion about round- a-bouts throughout the city and neighborhoods.

Larry Rogers Report

Great neighborhood meeting at the academy the day before, primarily NBDS neighborhoods that were involved.

Brief discussion about camera in police vehicles. There are currently cameras in every traffic vehicle and other vehicles depend on funding.

Link to check crime in your neighborhoods <http://mapping.dmgov.org/crimeview/>

Neighborhood Resource Office Update

ComNet

All surveys are complete for the year

Completed Waveland Park August 29th

SouthPark will complete the portions of their survey that we did not get to in October, if the weather holds up.

NRO "Friendraiser"

An effort to raise awareness about the Neighborhood Associations and the NRO .

November 5th 5:00-8:00pm at the Des Moines Social Club ; Name is TBD.

NRLC Neighborhood Resident Leadership Certificate

Brief discussion about the classes overlapped with the meetings.

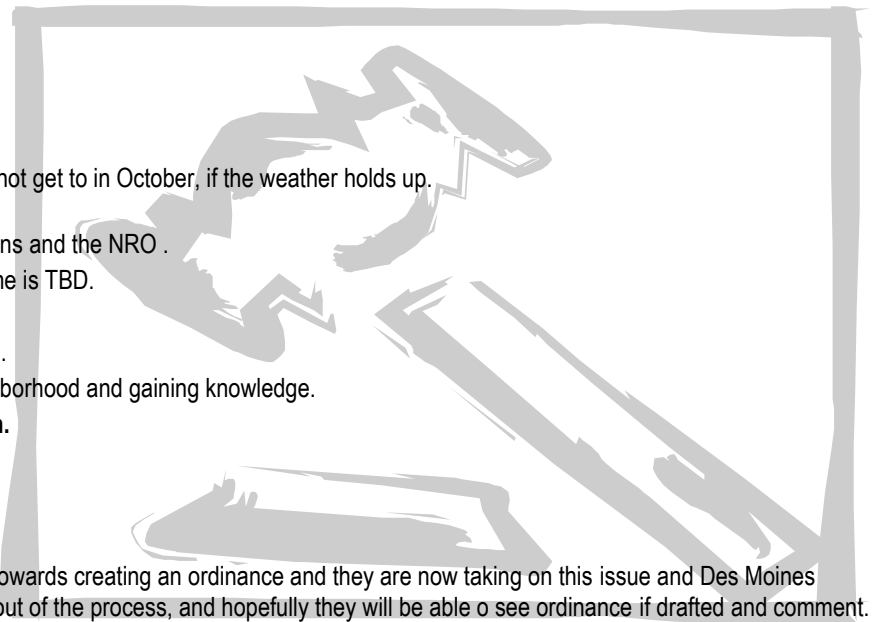
The classes are a chance to get new people involved with neighborhood and gaining knowledge.

Fall Schedules are now available and classes are in session.

DMN NEIGHBORS REPORT

Convenience Store Canopy

B. Millard shared that the city manager has asked staff to work towards creating an ordinance and they are now taking on this issue and Des Moines Neighbors will wait to see results. DSM Neighbors is now out of the process, and hopefully they will be able to see ordinance if drafted and comment.



Des Moines Neighbors by-law changes

by laws distributed, third page section six, article five e is where a change will be made. It is changed to note that board members can vote via electronic devices, ex. E-mail.

B. Millard voiced issue with e-mailing vs. live vote on phone; feels that it should only include telephone or conference call.

A few questions were answered ex... does open meetings laws include e-mail?

"The board of directors may vote and participate in meetings so long as the process remains in compliance with open meetings laws"- Proposed by Ed Conlow

" At the discretion of the chair, the board may use electronic devices to vote or participate in meetings, so long as such process remains in compliance with open meetings laws"

C. J Stephens discussed how her neighborhood just did about electronic voting. Wanted things done electronically to be entered into official minutes and documented.

Any spending had a \$500.00 limit.

Clarification that the Des Moines neighbor's by-law changes only affect the Des Moines Neighbors Board of Directors participation, not general membership.

Motion to change by-laws : H. Donaldson

Second: E. Conlow

Motion passes

Cookbook

Cookbooks are ready to be ordered as soon as the price is approved.

Treasurer Report:

J.Johanson was absent

Current Balance: \$1,947.91 as reported by Cindy Christian

New Business

Younkers Community Day will be in November - C. Christian has the books sitting on hold for her.

Dave Stephenson brought up a discussion about the dangerous/ Poisonous weeds that are appearing all over the City of Des Moines.

He brought dangerous weeds to show the group and suggested that all neighborhood groups get copies of the Weed commission office operations manual.

Action Item: Cindy Christian will join Dave Stephensen and Don Vines in forming a committee to discuss how this weed problem can be combated.

Old Business

None

Neighborhood Reports

Remember the free computer classes that are being offered by the NRO.. Check the newsletter for more information.

H. Donaldson mentioned a course on new driver safety

Mondamin Presidential- Fish and chicken Fry October 2nd 5-8pm Casady school \$6-8 depending on what you get.

King Irving – October 3rd Rock the Block-Block Clean up Day still looking for volunteers to help out.

King Irving- 13th & College Avenue will have a Community garden going in

The Tai Village cultural celebration October 3rdB. Millard

Waterbury- Saturday June 12th and Sunday 13th of 2010 Secret Gardens of Waterbury featuring the Secret artists of Waterbury.

Private fundraiser with pre garden tour and art auction the day before.

Val Air issue- the neighborhood association does not support the actions against the Val Air.

October 6th- FCCI will have a meeting and Habitat for Humanity will introduce new family in the neighborhood.

October 7th- Waveland Park's large fall meeting at the NW community Center- Bill Stowe will speak about Storm water run off.

No official adjournment.

