

Minutes

**Astor Neighborhood Association, Inc. - Monday, August 20 - 6:00 p.m.
The Higgins Home, 700 Emilie Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin**

1) ROLL CALL

Present: E. Hoyer, President.; Vice President; P. Schleis, Secretary/Treasurer; R. Chronert, B. Dickey, A. Higgins, T. Bielski, Jennie Schwenk
Absent, excused: M. Van Handel

2) INVITED GUESTS

Jacqueline Frank and her husband – Fox River beautification: working toward more of a park look, with perennial beds (north of the pier, at the end of Lawe St.) day lilies, and possibly trees. Low maintenance, spreading well, would be inviting. The city would donate compost, and initial watering. They'd like to avoid having cars parking along the side, and throwing junk. The "no trespassing" signs are on the Brogan land. There are thoughts of handicapped parking near the pier. There was discussion about parking lot vs. keeping green space. ANA has some available money, and would be interested in approaching Mr. Brogan, to help making it more environmentally friendly. Volunteers are not doing well in maintaining parks. Support and man-hours are needed now, and finances more in the future. We could announce this project at the Sept. potluck. ANA could perhaps bid on a Butterfly (Einstein Project) in October 2007, and then install it in this area. Other thoughts were to commission the making of a Butterfly, or some other artwork. Brittney has volunteered to be the point person for these projects. ANA supports these efforts.

Alderman Tony Theissen: absent

Cheryl Reiner-Wigg, Neighborhoods: Green Bay will have 22, by the end of September. 419 Cass St. can be purchased, subject to City approval. The Historical Oversight commission (advisory) is considering trying to get their ordinance to have more clout, and ANA might hear more about this in early 2008 (annual meeting topic?).

Officer Brian Schilt: absent

Jesse Sharp, 919 S. Quincy St., considering being on the Board.

3) APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES

4) TREASURER'S REPORT/ BILLS

M/S/C to donate leftover Popcorn in Park supplies to First Lutheran church.

M/S/C to approve the June 2007 minutes, and July/August treasurer's report.

Pastor Schleis and Mike V. will check into better interest rates (CD instead of Money Market)

5) ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter: out soon, and another in November.

Popcorn in the Park – overview of 07: about \$2100 profit! We'd like to have the popcorn popper professionally cleaned, and have the popper cart redone (Trini has a volunteer). The heat lamp bulb also needs replacement. We'll still keep popcorn at \$.50. Rox mentioned that she had some difficulty in calling volunteers this year.

Back to school Potluck –Thurs., September 6th, St. James Park, 5:30 PM. Pastor & Denise will take care of utensils, plates, napkins, Trini will do sloppy joes, hotdogs and chips through Biebels, for about 75 people. Brittney will get 50 scooter pies. Rox will get lemonade, and root beer. Erik will bring hotdogs. Jenny will get flowers, and about eight tablecloths. We'll have flyers printed up. Kickball will be set up. Now not a potluck, as ANA will provide everything.

We'd like to have the potluck in even years, at Astor Park? We'd like to have the Easter Egg hunt also at Astor Park, with Astor East River Association.

Fox River Clean Up – Sat., October 20th, 9:30 AM at the trailhead. Brittney in charge

6) QUESTIONNAIRE

See next page. Need to bring new people in, with separate committees.

7) ADJOURN, 9:00 PM

Next meeting, Mon., Sept. 17, 6 PM at Howe Resource. Pastor Schleis and Brittney excused in advance. Mike Troyer will be invited, help us revitalize.

Pastor Paul Schleis, secretary/treasurer

Over the last few years, we have saved quite a bit of money from popcorn in the park, breaking even on our wine tasting, free printing on the newsletter, and grant money from the Mayors Neighborhood Leadership Council (MNLC). What, if anything, should we do with the money? Is investment to get greater interest a good idea? Are there other beautification projects that we could spend money on?

*Improvements on the St. James shelter
Howe Resource Center dinner night*

Do we have an attendance problem with our community events? If so, what can we do to shore up particular components/events? For you long-timers, do you perceive that there has been substantial turnover within the neighborhood, and there are more/fewer young families than there were 5 years ago? 10 years ago? Are there events that we can plan that would have greater appeal to families with children? How about addressing the needs of our older neighbors?

Is our Board getting burned out? We do a lot! (Popcorn, Wine Tasting, Easter Egg)

Do we have contacts with schools to encourage the neighborhood teens to help out with events like trail clean-ups and popcorn vending?

Last year there was a leadership training program made available through the MNLC. In this program, there was a series of training days to teach general and neighborhood-specific leadership techniques. If these were going to be offered this fall (probably Saturdays in September and October) would you be interested in participating?

*Would help, to reinvigorate our Board.
Need to give more autonomy to Board members, and let them form own committees.*

In the past, we have talked about bringing in an expert to give a lecture about older home renovation – do you think that this is something that we could spend money on that would have an attendance?

Is it possible for our neighborhood to have a “welcome wagon” of sorts? Would this increase awareness of the neighborhood association and let people know right away that they are living in a special neighborhood?

Good idea, but don't have the manpower.

Does the Neighborhood Board meet too often? With greater levels of flexibility and responsibility, as well as emailed interactions, could we meet every other month? Would this help ensure that you could attend every meeting, or does it really depend on how the specific dates mesh with your work and family schedule?

Are our annual meetings perceived as too long?

The events that we do can be classified into three categories, depending on how much planning they require. Which of the events on the list below are the most important in meeting our mission? Should any be added? Subtracted?

- * High planning: Popcorn in Park, Wine tasting, Newsletter/Fliers

- * Medium planning: Easter egg hunt, River cleanup, Annual Potluck, Annual Meeting

- * Low planning: Holiday caroling, Kickball games, Garage Sale, December Luminaries

past events: ice skating, fall fest

Should we sell beer at the fall potluck in St. James park – see if the owner of Titledown brewery would set up a stand?

Problems with liquor license, and which parks allow liquor.