

**MILLER CITIZENS CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 10, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Arndt, Bradley, Ben Daniel, Collie, Defries, Eaton, Gholson, Johnston, Kniola, Norton, Reaves, Smith, Stewart, Tonk, Winfrey
EXCUSED: Hansen, Millard, Prettyman, Quiett, Roby, Rogge, Deb Weiss
ABSENT: Darby, Grimes, Johnson, King, Leonard, McCarthy, Walker, Rachel Weiss

The meeting began with a moment of silence in honor of US troops.

MINUTES Ed Johnston moved and Joe Winfrey seconded, that the minutes of the January 2014 MCC board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

TREASURY Eric Reaves read the treasurer's report which was prepared by Wendy Prettyman. It showed:

Beginning Balance January 1, 2014:	\$	7,764.41
Income:		55.00
Disbursements:		250.00
Ending Balance January 31, 2014:		7,569.43

Expenses were for the Post Office. Income was from membership dues \$30.00 and contributions \$25.00. Joe Winfrey moved and Cullen Ben Daniel seconded, that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Robert Doctor, who is in charge of the Gary Career Center and of the Continuing Education Program of the Gary Community Schools, spoke about his dual responsibilities.

The school corporation no longer issues GED certificates. Instead, students may earn High School Equivalency **Diplomas**, by taking adult education classes followed by a seven-hour battery of tests. In preparation for the tests, students must spend a minimum of 12 hours a week in class, for a period of time determined by the student's needs. Classes are scheduled at 6 locations around the city, including Miller Village, and they are held at various times of the day and evening, for the convenience of the students. Classes are small, and the teachers are part-time employees. The only expense is for taking the test, which costs \$90. If the student passes some segments of the test and fails others, he only has to be retested for the parts he failed.

The Gary Career Center offers a variety of classes involving work-oriented skills, including the building trades. Career Center enrollment has increased significantly in the past two years, from 152 students in 2012 to 1,000 students today, including 270 students from Wirt. The Gary Community Schools also offer about 30 courses for dual high school/college credit at various local colleges, which allow students to get free college credits. The public is invited to an open house at the Career Center this coming Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

MCC COMMITTEES

Reaves passed out sign-up sheets for MCC committees, with the observation that every board member is expected to be active in a least one of the committees.

The Shoreline Committee and the Education Committee will report to Carol Smith.

The Government Legislative Committee and the Public Safety Committee will report to Ron Gholson.

The Marketing/Events Committee will report to Eric Reaves.

The Membership/Nominations/Newsletter Committee will report to Tom Eaton.
The Finance Committee will report to Wendy Prettyman.

(NOTE: Reaves and Gholson subsequently switched responsibilities.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Eric Reaves reported that President Obama has designated Gary a “Strong City”, which means that Federal representatives from HUD, DOT, and other agencies will be working with the city to formulate programs and find funding for redevelopment.

Reaves has spoken to Mayor Freeman-Wilson concerning the operation of Marquette Park. The Mayor still contends that the city will manage the park on its own, but she has not formulated any plan for doing this. The RDA, which funded the park renovation, is aware of the situation but cannot force the mayor to create an independent park management organization if she doesn’t want to. Reaves still plans to respond to the Mayor’s most recent letter. He thinks the MCC may try to create a support group independently of the city. Cullen ben Daniel suggested that the MCC could hold a protest on the issue at the Mayor’s office, but others thought this move would be counter-productive. Carol Smith noted that we could help with specific functions, as we have done in the past. The MCC will consider the matter further after sending a response to the Mayor.

Carol Smith announced that the next Shoreline Committee meeting, on February 20 will deal with neighborhood safety and will be held in cooperation with the Federation of Block Clubs. The public is welcome to attend. In general, the committee will meet monthly from February to October on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Gardner Center. The March meeting will feature a discussion of park and beach plans for the coming season.

Jason Arndt noted that the Education Committee has sent the proposed letter concerning dual credit classes to the Gary Community School Superintendent. He added that the Gary School Board will meet on Tuesday, February 11 at 6:00 pm at the Gardner Center.

Reaves reported that the 18th Street Brewery is in operation. Also, Norm Caplan has rented the building on Lake Street with the “Miller Historical Society Museum” sign, for use by his newly-formed Shakespeare Theater organization. The project for the Lake Street lodge is still in progress.

Tom Taylor, who organized last year’s Miller Beach marathon, is planning to concentrate his events business in Miller. He is applying for 501-C-3 status, so he can apply for supporting grants. Meanwhile, he has been working with Carmela Saraceno at the Miller Beach Market Place and is helping with the Experience Miller Beach web site. Saraceno announced that her business is celebrating its one-year anniversary.

Jim Nowacki reported that the Gary redevelopment has sold the property we previously discussed to a construction recycling company (which will not be doing tire recycling).

Ron Gholson thanked everyone for their good wishes during his recent major surgery. He added that distribution of the Miller Message will be through MailChimp, rather than Constant Contact.

The February 2014 MCC board meeting adjourned at 8:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Eaton
Secretary
Miller Citizens Corp.