

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

ATTENDANCE

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

The meeting began with a moment of silence in honor of US troops. Carol Smith presided in place of Eric Reaves, who was tied up with work.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February MCC board meeting were amended to show that we would continue to mail the Miller Message to members who do not have e-mail addresses and are unable to pick up the Lakeshore Shopper at public distribution points. Joe Winfrey moved and Louis Stewart seconded, that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed.

TREASURY

Tom Eaton read the treasurer's report which was prepared by Wendy Prettyman. It showed:

Beginning Balance February 1, 2014:	\$	7,569.43
Income:		105.00
Disbursements:		1,270.00
Ending Balance February 28, 2014:		6,404.46

Expenses were for the web page \$435; the Post Office \$720.00; the newsletter \$45; and the safe deposit box \$70.00. Income was from dues \$50 and contributions \$55. Wardella Roby moved and Joe Winfrey seconded, that the treasurer's report be accepted as read. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Carol Smith pointed out that sign-up sheets were being circulated, for members to indicate their preferences for committee assignments. She emphasized that all MCC board members are expected to be active participants in at least one committee.

There was nothing new to report in the area of government and legislation.

Jim Nowacki brought up the problem of potholes, and street paving in general. Smith advised him to call Councilwoman Shannon, who had pledged to follow up on street repair problems. In the background, there was general agreement that efforts to patch potholes have been ineffective, due to weather conditions and the poor choice of patching material. Doug Grimes noted that, historically, some revenues from the casinos had been divided up among the councilmanic districts for paving and repairing roads. He also recommended calling Shannon. Pauline Millard moved and Grimes seconded, that the MCC invite Councilwoman Shannon to attend the next MCC board meeting to discuss the street repair situation. The motion passed. Either Smith or Reaves will call our council representative.

George Rogge and Tom Eaton talked about the March meeting of the Lake County Liquor Board, where they spoke as representatives of the MCC and the MBA, in opposing a beer and wine license for the gas station and convenience store on the south side of Rt. 20 at Clay Street. Both organizations have opposed granting liquor

licenses to gas stations, and they argued that a license in this location was not wanted or needed, since there was a liquor outlet just two buildings away. Opponents of the license were joined by the Assistant Chief of Police, a police commander, and several other officers, who argued that this was already a high-crime area, and adding a liquor outlet would only make things worse. The liquor board recommended against approving the license application, but the final decision will be made in Indianapolis.

George Rogge encouraged the MCC board members to buy tickets for the dance on March 29 at the Gardner Center, sponsored by the MBA and the Rotary Club and featuring the popular band, the Crawpuppies. There will be limited free drinks and food from the Bakery Café as well. Sponsors need to sell 100 tickets to break even.

MEMBERSHIP AND NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Tom Eaton indicated that he wants to have a committee meeting in the near future, to get both efforts under way. The Nominating Committee should be working all year to evaluate and recruit members for the Board of Directors, and the annual membership drive, along with other membership activities, should also be starting now.

SHORELINE COMMITTEE

Carol Smith reported that the February meeting of the Shoreline Committee had been held in cooperation with the Gary block club organization and it had been attended by top police officials, including the Chief. This month's committee meeting, on March 20 at the Gardner Center, will be back to the subjects of beach security and maintenance.

OTHER COMMITTEES

Ron Gholson noted that he and Eric Reaves had exchanged areas of responsibility. The marketing and events functions will report to Gholson while the government, legislative and public safety areas will report to Reaves.

Gholson has scheduled a meeting of the marketing and events group for Thursday, November 27 at 6:00 pm at his office at Datamine on Lake Street. The committee will continue to meet on the last Thursday of each month. Gholson is also in the process of revising the MCC website.

In the area of public safety, Barb Hansen has been sending e-mail alerts about weather-related problems. She notes that residents can submit claims to the city for damage to automobiles due to potholes, although the city's liability is limited.

George Rogge announced that he is scheduling the annual **Miller cleanup** for Saturday, May 3, starting at 7:00 am and continuing until 11:00, which is the latest time the city can pick up the trash. Rogge thinks there is so much rubbish to clean up this year that we may need an extra week to finish the job.

GENERAL SHARING

George Rogge announced that the board of the Miller Business Association (MBA) will be meeting tomorrow morning at 8:00 am at the Miller Beach Market Place on Shelby Street. Visitors are welcome.

Jim Nowacki reminded the board that the former Gary Bank Building at 5th and Broadway has been purchased by a group headed by Vance Kenny, who immediately approached the city seeking millions of dollars from Tax Increment Financing bonds, which he expects the city to grant. Nowacki criticized the shady backgrounds of the investor's group.

On a positive note, Nowacki mentioned that the Gary Park Department was again sponsoring a trip to the Chicago flower show on March 20. Bus transportation and entry to the show cost \$20.

The March 2014 board meeting of the Miller Citizens Corp. adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Eaton, Secretary, MCC