

**MILLER CITIZENS CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 14, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

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

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

MINUTES Joe Winfrey moved and George Rogge seconded, that the minutes of the March MCC board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

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

Beginning Balance March 1, 2014:	\$	6,404.46
Income:		95.03
Disbursements:		45.00
Ending Balance March 31, 2014:		6,454.49

Expenses were the newsletter (\$45). Income was from dues \$50 and contributions \$45. Ed Johnston moved and Joe Winfrey seconded, that the treasurer’s report be accepted as read. The motion passed.

GUEST SPEAKER – COUNCILWOMAN MILDRED SHANNON

Councilwoman Shannon was invited to attend the MCC board meeting to discuss the current pothole problem. Shannon noted that she had toured the city with a group which included Mayor Freeman-Wilson, and they had seen at first hand how bad the pothole problem was. She added that the city had \$1.5 million to repair streets. Shannon has asked that priority be given to repairing Lake St., Oak Avenue, 6th Avenue, Clay St., Grand Blvd., and County Line Road north of the West Beach entrance. The Mayor is also talking to state officials about paving state roads through the city. Shannon added that the city has floated a bond issue for street repaving.

Councilmen Pratt and Allen have also submitted their own list of paving priorities. Finally, the railroad crossing on Old Hobart Road is also in disrepair and the railroad needs to be alerted.

It was pointed out that “cold patching” was used in the winter because the plants that produce asphalt for “hot patching” and paving are not in operation. Now that the weather is warming up, the city will begin hot patching starting this week.

Shannon recognized the problems with the newly paved roads through Marquette Park, where cracks are already appearing. Carol Smith noted that the patching crew often patches one hole in an area while completely ignoring other adjacent holes. Roland Walker reported that he fixes holes in front of his house on his own.

County income tax money has started to come in, and Shannon will investigate how it is being used.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Eric Reaves reported that the Marquette Park Advisory Board is no longer meeting. The City is hiring one part-time person to take care of the park, but this is not enough. The MCC is still asking the Park Department

Superintendent, Lori Latham, for a Marquette management plan. Despite inadequate resources, the Mayor wants the city to manage the park on its own. In response to a question from Doug Grimes, it was noted that there is a management plan, drawn up by the park renovation consultants, but it is not being implemented. Also, there is a non-reverting fund for Marquette Park, but income from park activities is not being deposited in the fund.

On the economic development front, Reaves pointed to the new 18th Street Brewery as a major attraction. He noted that other developments are being planned.

The MCC is starting to distribute its monthly newsletter, the Miller Message, via e-mail, rather than through the postal service. This will save a lot of money and will deliver news to MCC members on a more timely basis.

SHORELINE COMMITTEE.

Carol Smith reported that the Shoreline Committee met at the Miller Beach Market Place, along with Gary police, County police, and fire department representatives, as well as the divemaster supervisor. All the groups will be working together to assure a safe beach season. They agree that establishing control at the start of the season will set the tone for the rest of the summer.

The businesses at Shelby and Locust need to deal with the use of parking space by beach-goers, especially at night.

The street signs which will identify access points at the beach are being produced by John Pickford, and will be available soon. They are intended to direct responders to the proper area of the beach when calls for help are sent out. We need to help getting the signs installed.

Smith noted that the coast guard is only involved in homeland security functions and does not do law enforcement or rescue work.

On the side, it was noted that the Indiana Visitor Board and the Lake County Tourist Bureau both fail to mention Marquette Park and the Gary beach as attractions to visit.

Carmella Saraceno has been awarded the contract to operate the Marquette Park concession stand at Montgomery St. She will have the stand in operation at least by My 26.

The park cleanup volunteers, led by Carol Smith, are picking up litter throughout the park on Monday and Thursday mornings, starting about 9:00 am. She encourages everyone to help out with keeping the park clean.

The next Shoreline Committee meeting is on Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 pm at the Gardner Center.

MILLER COMMUNITY CLEANUP

George Rogge announced that the annual Miller Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 3 from 7:00 to 11:00 am.

In addition, the Miller Business Association (MBA) will start sweeping Lake Street that same day. In addition, Dan Vicarai, the Gary Sanitary District manager, will sweep Lake Street this Thursday, April 17, using his new street sweeper.

The MBA, in collaboration with the Gary Rotary Club held a dance at the Gardner Center featuring the band Crawpuppies, which was attended by 133 persons. The sponsors made a substantial profit, and the MCC would like this to be a prototype for a possible MCC event, also at the Gardner Center.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Winfrey proposed that the MCC appropriate \$100 to buy a memorial brick for the Boys and Girls Club. When Doug Grimes pointed out that such requests should be reviewed and approved by the MCC Finance Committee before action is taken by the board, the matter was postponed until the May board meeting.

GENERAL SHARING

Roland Walker confronted Jim Nowacki and accused him of spreading false and defamatory information to the local media about Walker and his family. Walker thought this was especially reprehensible when it involved fellow members of the MCC organization.

Jim Nowacki reported that he had attended the meeting of the Gary Economic Development Commission, where support for the TIFF bond issue for the renovation of the one-time Gary National Bank building was reconsidered. This time, the commission voted 4 to 1 in favor of the bond issue.

A visitor reported that limbs which fell across the road in a recent storm were moved away from the roadway by General Services. However, they were not moved very far and they are once again encroaching on the traffic lanes.

The April, 2014 meeting of the MCC board of directors adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Easton
Secretary
Miller Citizens Corp.