

**MILLER CITIZENS CORPORATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 13, 2014**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

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

**MINUTES** Pauline Millard moved and Jason Arndt seconded, that the minutes of the December board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

**TREASURY** Eric Reaves read the treasurer’s report prepared by Wendy Prettyman, which showed:

Beginning Balance December 1, 2013:	\$ 7,744.37
Income:	214.00
Disbursements:	195.00
Ending Balance December 31, 2013:	7,744.40

Expenses were for the newsletter (\$45) and the Post Office (\$150). Income was from membership dues \$170) and contributions (\$45). Joe Winfrey moved and Jason Arndt seconded, that the treasurer’s report be accepted. The motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Samantha Norton** reported on her project to contact MCC members for whom we do not have e-mail addresses. She obtained addresses for some and determined that others could conveniently pick up the Lakeshore Shopper at a local business. She ended up with about 30 members who did not have e-mail and who could not readily obtain a copy of the Lakeshore Shopper. She offered to continue sending them the Lakeshore Shopper by mail.

In passing, Norton noted that the MCC has a lot of old members.

Following up on the issue of membership, Cullen Ben Daniel suggested that the MCC routinely set up a membership table at community events.

**Eric Reaves** reported that the Marquette Park oversight committee has effectively stopped meeting, since the park renovation work is basically complete. Recently, ballards have been installed at the entrance to the Pavilion, to stop automobiles from driving up to the door. A new park sign is in place at the Grand Blvd. entrance to the park, and the old sign will be taken down. The Gary Sanitary District, directed by Dan Vicari, has installed fencing around developing wetland areas, both north and south of the oak savannah.

Reaves indicated he is still working to set up a board member ‘retreat’. He plans to have revised lists of committees available at the February MCC board meeting for members to sign up.

**Reaves** also noted that the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Brewery is now open for business. He feels this is a good business for Miller. He also mentioned Indi-Indi-Bang-Bang, the new gift shop on Lake Street.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the lodge at the end of Lake Street is still pending. There will be opportunities for public comment on the project once a developer is selected. Meanwhile, the city and federal agencies are looking at the infrastructure which would support the lodge.

### **SHORELINE COMMITTEE**

**Carol Smith** reported that the Shoreline Committee will meeting on February 20 at 6:00 at the Gardener Center, following its winter hiatus. The meeting will include representatives of the police and Gary block clubs and is being advertised as a crime watch open meeting. The March Shoreline Committee meeting will concentrate on beach security for the upcoming season.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Jason Arndt** noted that no action has followed our previous discussions with the Gary School administration, urging greater participation in dual credit programs with Ivy Tech. Arndt wants to resend the MCC letter urging the Gary schools to take part in the programs.

When the representative from the Crossroads program spoke to the MCC board, members were reluctant to endorse the program because of its “faith-based” after-hours component. Now, Arndt moved that the MCC at least write a letter, encouraging the school administration to talk to the Crossroads representatives. Pauline Millard seconded the motion and the MCC board members approved.

### **EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**Eric Reaves** reported that the Events Committee has obtained cost estimates from the Marquette Park Pavilion for a proposed MCC winter dance, and the Pavilion management was willing to waive the hall rental fee for the event. However, Reaves feels the cost would still be too high to attract the desired crowd. He suggested that we could hold an event at the Gardener Center, which would be more competitive in price with other locations.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Pauline Millard** inquired what had been done with the letter to the board of the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority, protesting the move of the South Shore Air Show to Newton County. Tom Eaton answered that the letter was written but had not yet been sent. He noted that he would send copies of the proposed letter to board members.

In ensuing discussion, Jim Pappas inquired about what could make the air show self-supporting. Reaves noted that what are needed are sponsors, and Batistatos prefers not to go begging for financial support. Reaves suggested that Pappas could talk to Batistatos and could help line up sponsors for holding the show in Miller.

Samantha Norton thought that holding the show in Newton County might not fulfill expectations.

### **GENERAL SHARING**

Carol Smith noted that she had tried to make an on-line contribution to the MCC but no such function existed on the MCC web page. This option has now been added, and it allows for contributions through pay-pal. She suggested that similar functions should be provided on the web sites for other Miller community organizations.

On a similar note, Cullen Ben Daniel observed that there are a large number of websites for Miller organizations and businesses, but no central website which pulls them all together. That lack has now been corrected with the new website [www.millerbeach.webs.com](http://www.millerbeach.webs.com). (Aside: Go to this website and click on the option at the top of the screen which says “why visit?” This will take you to the page that lists links to many other websites.)

Reaves recommended visiting the Bead Town exhibit at the Gardener Center, which will be running until March 5. The artist will be working with students from Gary schools on some of the panels.

Jim Nowacki reported that there will be an opportunity for public comment on the Airport Authority management deal, January 27 at 10:00 pm. The contract with the proposed arrangement was not supposed to cost the authority anything, but it now appears they will be paying \$2 million to the group that arranged the contract.

Howard Darby announced that he has recently celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The board members applauded.

The MCC Board Meeting for January, 2014 adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Eaton  
Secretary  
Miller Citizens Corp.