

## **MCC committees getting set to attack local problems**

The work of the Miller Citizens Corp. is carried on principally through committees, and the MCC by-laws state that board members must participate in the activities of at least one committee. However, all MCC members are encouraged to participate in committee work, and if you are not an MCC member it only costs \$10 for annual dues to join, so don't hold back. A number of committees are getting organized with a regular monthly meeting time, to make it easier for members to plan participation.

### **GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

Meeting: **Second Wednesday of the month at 6:00**

Feb. mtg. **Wednesday, February 8 at 6:00 pm.**

Datamine office, 330 S. Lake St.

Contact: Ron Gholson; [rgholson@datamine.net](mailto:rgholson@datamine.net)

Tel: 939-9987 x 223

The current agenda will include a review of MCC opposition to a county income tax. The committee is also reassembling our information on properties to be demolished, with the intention of getting our requests in to the new city administration as soon as possible. (Getting buildings demolished in Miller is difficult because federal funds for this purpose cannot be used here or in the Glen Ryan area – only in Aetna, Emerson, and central Gary.)

### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Meeting: **Third Monday of the month at 6:00**

Feb. mtg: **Monday, February 20 at 6:00 pm**

Datamine Office, 330 S. Lake St.

Contact: Ron Gholson; [rgholson@datamine.net](mailto:rgholson@datamine.net)

Tel: 939-9987 x 223 or

Barb Hansen; [barb-252@hotmail.com](mailto:barb-252@hotmail.com)

Tel: 939-6208

Committee concerns will be staffing of patrol officers in our sector, especially on midnight turns; the role of reserve officers on patrol and code enforcement; the status of COP officers; and the general lack of code enforcement.

### **SHORELINE COMMITTEE**

Meeting: **Third Thursday of the month at 6:00**

Feb. mtg. **Thursday, February 16 at 6:00**

St. Barnabas Church on Potawottamie Tr.

Contact: Carol Smith; [pgraysmith@gmail.com](mailto:pgraysmith@gmail.com)

Tel: 938-4225

The February meeting will concentrate on planning a "big meeting" in March with officials involved in the beach area. The committee's long-range objective is to make

the beach safe and “family friendly”, with the cooperation of the Pickfords who operate the Wells Street Beach concession.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Meeting: **Second Monday of the month at 6:30, prior to the monthly MCC meeting**  
Feb. mtg: **Monday, February 13 at 6:30**  
Marquette Park United Methodist Church  
Contact: Doretha Rouse; Tel: 938-4862 or  
Jason Arndt; [jarndt@peacebuilder.org](mailto:jarndt@peacebuilder.org)  
Tel: 433-8598

The current agenda includes promotion of college credit classes for Gary high school students. The long-run goal is the general improvement of education in Gary.

## **Duly noted . . . .**

**MEET THE NEW MAYOR.** The Miller Business Association (MBA) is sponsoring a “meet and greet” session with Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson at Ming Ling’s Restaurant on Wednesday, February 8 at 6:00 pm to which the public is invited. The event is free for MBA members, but there is a modest charge of \$5 for non-members. If you plan to come, please RSVP to Joyce Davis at the Lake Street Gallery, [gallopinglisa@msn.com](mailto:gallopinglisa@msn.com).

**SEX AT THE AQUATORIUM.** The Aquatorium continues to function, even though its renovation is in progress. Their next event is a lecture on **Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 pm by Karen Fontaine, Miller resident and nationally-known sex therapist, who will talk about “Sex after 50 – who needs it?”** Tickets are \$25. If you purchased a ticket to the January 22 Talk Theatre performance, that ticket allows you entrance to this lecture as well.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MILLER CITIZENS CORP. BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 7:30 PM IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE MARQUETTE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON GRAND BLVD. Members are invited to attend and participate.**

**Contact the MCC between meetings at P.O.Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403, or e-mail [mceaton@aol.com](mailto:mceaton@aol.com). You can also visit the MCC website at [www.millercitizenscorp.org](http://www.millercitizenscorp.org).**

**NEW COMMITTEE.** At the January MCC board meeting, **Doretha Rouse suggested that the MCC should have a condolence committee**, and she volunteered to be in charge. The MCC directors unanimously approved this proposal, which is in the longstanding tradition of the MCC: if you see a job which needs to be done and you are willing to do it, the MCC will support you..

**EVERYONE IS INVITED.** The Bethel Lutheran Church on Montgomery Street is planning several events of interest to the community. They are hosting a Gospelfest on **Sunday, February 26 at 3:00 pm.** Donations will benefit Haitian refugees. Then, **on Friday, March 9 from 10:00 to 4:00** they are holding a fish fry. Call the church at 938-6677 to purchase tickets, \$7 each.

**ARTS DISTRICT LOOKS AHEAD.** The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) has planned another string of **“pop-up art” events for the coming year, on April 14, June 9, August 11, October 13, and December 8.** Additional information will be available as these dates approach. For now, the family of Marshall Gardner has formally transferred the former Miller Drugs building at 540 S. Lake Street to the Arts District, to be transformed into a center for the arts. Plans for renovating the property can be viewed at the MBACD web site: [www.millerbeacharts.org](http://www.millerbeacharts.org).

**HELP EDISON LEARN.** A private company, **EdisonLearning**, will be taking charge of the Roosevelt Career and Technical Academy, and they are hosting a series of forums to get community input on the “needs and capacity to improve.” Sessions are scheduled at the **Midtown Library, 1835 Broadway, on Tuesday, February 14 from 10:30 to noon and on Tuesday, February 28 from 4:00 to 5:30. There will also be a session at St. Timothy Church, 1600 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on Tuesday, February 28 from 6:00 to 7:30.** Although Roosevelt students come mainly from the central area of Gary, some students are from Miller, and Miller residents may also be interested in what is happening at Roosevelt because it is such an important part of the Gary school system.

**PROPERTY TAX UPDATE.** At the January MCC meeting, George Rogge reported that his tax committee has been working with Hank Adams, the Lake County Assessor, to assure that the general reassessment, which takes place this year, will result in reasonable values for homes in the lakefront neighborhood. He has an agreement from Adams, which he feels he can count on, that all the properties behind the beachfront homes will

be assigned to a single separate “neighborhood” with a .land value of \$900 per front foot. This would affect taxes for 2013 payable 2014 and beyond. It is still uncertain what will happen for taxes payable in 2012 and 2013.

**FESTIVITIES ARE COMING.** The MCC has not been holding big-time parties since the fall of 2010, when the Marquette Park Pavilion closed for renovation, since no other suitable venue could be found. However, this is going to change. Get your party clothes ready! Eric Reaves has affirmed that there will **definitely** be an MCC Valentine’s Day dance in 2013, and maybe a Halloween dance this year. The reservation fees for two events have already been paid, and we will be scheduling these affairs as soon as we know for sure when the pavilion will be ready for use.

## **Marquette Park project status being reassessed**

Because of continuing concern over the progress of the Marquette Park renovation project, MCC President Eric Reaves and John Vinzant have met with the Hitchcock project management team to assess the current situation. Reaves judges that the project is exceeding budgeted costs by \$2.5 to \$3.0 million, due to delays arising from the lack of decision on details of work to be done. This shortage will be covered, in part, by contingency funds which were built into the appropriation and, after that, by reducing the work which will be done at Lake Street and elsewhere. Reaves believes that the Mayor Freeman-Wilson is determined to see the project completed, and he expects many decisions to be made in the next several weeks.

City Planner Chris Meyers, who has been overseeing the Marquette Park project, is out of the picture effective January 1. This is considered good news, since Meyers is blamed for many of the delays and cost over-runs. Forest Hayes has been appointed as the new City manager for the project. Following several break-ins and thefts, both personal and electronic security have been installed.

George Rogge reports that work on the Aquatorium, which is covered by a separate contract, is proceeding on schedule and will be completed by May 1.

## **College classes for preppies**

The MCC Education Committee would like to see more classes for college credit offered in Gary high schools.

They invited Dr. Margaret Semmer and Joseph Arredondo from Ivy Tech to speak at the January MCC board meeting, to describe the various college course options which are available for high school students:

-----A Gary schools teacher would conduct the class, using a syllabus, tests and other materials provided or approved by Ivy Tech

-----Ivy Tech (for a fee of \$2,400) would send an instructor to the school to conduct the class

-----The Gary schools could pay for students to go to Ivy Tech and take classes specifically designed for high school students. In Gary, students go to Ivy Tech for classes in welding.

-----High school students could go to Ivy Tech for regular college classes

Ivy Tech is working to have Gary students participate in more of these options.

## Historical Society reborn

The Miller Historical Society was established in 2010, under the leadership of Cullen Daniel, to preserve the heritage and history of the Miller community, with a focus on restoring the old Miller Town Hall to serve as the Miller History Museum, housing a collection of photographs, artifacts and personal narratives from the colorful past of the community. The Society also plans to host lectures and educational programs, which will bring people together to learn and enjoy. The Society is currently being reorganized, with new by-laws and a new board of directors, which will emphasize cooperation and collaboration with other local organizations and with the city administration.

**The Miller Historical Society meets at the Douglas Center on Lake Street on the fourth Saturday of each month from 2:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon** (a time that was chosen to avoid conflicts with other meetings). The next meeting will be on Saturday, February 25. Persons who are interested in promoting the aims of the historical society are encouraged to join. Annual membership dues are just \$15. More information about the Miller Historical Society is available on-line at the society website, [www.millerhistoricalsociety.webs.com](http://www.millerhistoricalsociety.webs.com) or on Facebook at **Miller Historical Society**.