

**North Flats Neighborhood
Meeting Notes
8/21/14**

Present: Donna & Ken VanOrden, Beth Duginske, Augie Margenau, Bob & Rosemarie Trester, Lynn Potyen, Heidi Hediger, Chad Pelishek, Nancy Maring-City Planning, Penny Weber-Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride

The meeting was held at the home of Ken & Donna VanOrden, 2003 North 10th Street, at 6:30 pm

Everyone introduced themselves and mentioned where in the neighborhood they lived.

Penny gave a summary of what has happened since the first small group North Flats Neighborhood meeting was held at the VanOrden home on November 12, 2012. She noted that this group has been together for almost 2 years. In that time, several small group meetings have been held, a potluck event took place in June of 2013 at The GameBoard, hosted by Lynn Potyen, and an all-neighborhood meeting was held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School on May 21st of this year. About 35 people attended that meeting.

What would interest the neighbors most about being an organized group? As a whole neighborhood, people could work together to make the entire neighborhood be “pleasing to the eye”. It was noted that there are vast differences in how the neighborhood looks from block to block. Some properties are well maintained while others are not. Neighbors should get to know each other’s “story” so everyone can have a better understanding of why things are happening and help each other if they are able. A motto of “neighbors helping neighbors”. A group could prepare a newsletter to let new neighbors know about such things as garbage pickup and other rules and resources. Another thing that could be done is to have someone on each block be the “go-to” person or block captain. Everyone in a particular block would be encouraged to be aware of what’s happening and that information could be given to the “block captain” who would in turn bring this information to a neighborhood meeting.

What attainable goals can be set for the neighborhood? Chad presented a prepared list of goals he had created and brought to the meeting. Copies of these goals were handed out. Everyone read the goals and decided they were agreeable to them. Since there were 11 goals on the sheet, it was thought that perhaps choosing 5 of those goals to begin would be more attainable. A decision can be made later on which goals, or all of them, the group would want to adopt.

Chad also created and brought to the meeting “Articles of Organization of North Flats Neighborhood Association”. This document was presented as the guidelines under which the North Flats Neighborhood would operate and actually could be considered the “bylaws”. The document was a one page, 2 sided sheet that simply stated all the requirements the North Flats Neighborhood Association would have to meet to be recognized by the City of Sheboygan as a formal organization. Everyone received a copy and discussion took place. A few minor changes were suggested and then the group was satisfied with the result. Chad was directed to ask Chuck Adams, assistant city attorney, for his approval of the document.

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Where do we go from here? The group decided to set up an all-neighborhood meeting on Saturday, October 4, at The GameBoard, 1832 North 8th Street, 12 Noon – 4 pm. At this meeting, the North Flats neighbors will vote for 7 neighborhood association board members, who would have been nominated before the meeting, and also review the Articles of Organization. Flyers will be prepared to announce the meeting and also advise neighbors that if they are interested in being a board member, they should nominate themselves. In addition to the meeting, the event will also have a social aspect “bring a chair and a dish to share”. Neighbors can vote and then meet other neighbors and eat delicious food as well.

Penny was instructed to email the flyer distribution spreadsheet she had developed previously for the neighborhood to Chad and Nancy at City Planning. Nancy will design the flyer and send it out to the group for approval. Then the group will be asked to volunteer to distribute the flyers for specified sections of the neighborhood by placing the flyers in doors.

Next meeting: October 4, The GameBoard, 1832 North 8th Street, 12 noon – 4 pm

Penny Weber
Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride
North Flats Neighborhood mentor
Meeting Note Taker