



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 10th, 2013**  
**7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Holiday Inn Express**  
**1140 24TH STREET DES MOINES, IOWA 50311**  
**Conference Room**  
**Hotel Front Desk: 515-255-4000**

Board Members Present (X); term expires as noted				
	Dean Blum (12/31/12)		Nancy Gooding (12/31/2014)	X David Courard-Hauri (12/31/13)
X	Liz Albright-Battles (12/31/14)	X	Bethany Wilcoxon (12/31/14)	X Deric Gourd (12/31/12)
X	Kristina Johnson (12/31/12)	X	Scott Johnson (12/31/13)	X Erica Luna (12/31/13)
X	Eldon McAfee (12/31/13)	X	Eddie Robinson (12/31/13)	Jen Sayers (12/31/13)
X	Sean Haire (12/31/2014)	X	Kevin Venhaus (12/31/12)	X Eric Moore (NBSD)
X	Richard Wallace (NBSD)	X	Teva Dawson (Parks)	Dolph Pulliam (Drake)

**Introductions (5 Min.) Scott Hartsook**

**Consent Agenda (5 Min.)**

- Approval of Minutes. Scott moves, Kevin seconds, minutes pass.
- Monthly Financials. Not much activity, so nothing was there.

**Reports (15 Min.)**

- **NBSD:** Deric brought up issues at 2600 Kingman, and wondered what had come from that. Sgt Wallace said that many of the issues were zoning related. The police issues were related to a window being shot out with a bb-gun, as well as someone who had been “scoping” the area. There seems to have been a lack of sufficient communication between the police and the neighborhoods. There was a meeting between the new manager of the apartment building, Hensley, police, and others. The former owner has certainly let the property go downhill, but he couldn’t sell it with high vacancy, so he filled the rest of the rooms with anyone he could, and that created problems for the new owner. Deric suggested that these used to be really well managed apartments. It seems like the old landlord really did allow it to go downhill, but it has now been sold (as of about a month ago). Mac asked whether Sgt Wallace checked calls to the apartment, and argued that perhaps he should spend time looking into

police calls. Sgt. Wallace said that it was important if people could not reach him directly to leave a message, even if they also call dispatch. Sean asked for whether maybe we could print in the newsletter about how to properly report and document issues like this. This would help us understand how to make NBSD an even better and more effective program. E-mail, incidentally, is quite useful. Sgt. Wallace said that e-mail is a really good way to get ahold of him. Pictures can be useful if people are comfortable doing that. The shooting at 21<sup>st</sup> and University has been resolved in terms of having caught the perpetrator and so on.

- **Parks:** The movie is on track for May 31<sup>st</sup> at Whitmer park. There was some conversation about whether to combine it with the garden tour, but most people felt it made more sense to keep it where it is. The wading pools will open June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the pools themselves will open June 6<sup>th</sup>. Teva put in a work order to paint the tennis courts. Parks has ground down some of the heaves on the path around Whitmer pond, but there are still some places where there may be unsafe drop-offs. Deric asked whether maybe Drake and Beaverville could get together to fix some of these problems. The perennial exchange will be May 18<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a native plant sale on the same weekend at Gray's lake.
- **Drake University.** There was no Drake representative. Deric said that Drake will be checking back with us in May with a new representative. The Board discussed what to do to recognize Dolph's service. Deric will organize getting a letter to him, and hopefully a piece in the newsletter.

### Old Business

1. Thoreau Center. The DNA wrote a letter of support regarding the current use of the Thoreau Center, but the city would like to convert it to NPC. The Center has been operated as an events center since 1978. Scott Hartsook has a purchase agreement with the former owners, contingent upon continuing its current use. The City claims that it has no record that the use was ever approved, and it's not a typical commercial building, so they said they couldn't approve the use. This is why the city wants it to be NPC. There will be a meeting with the neighbors on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 (with cookies). But now the zoning person said that sometimes the City Council won't approve NPC in order to encourage the owners to get a use variation, but the new owners would like to avoid this because they don't think they're really entitled to a use variation. They are happy to have a very restrictive use. Deric said that it made sense to write a letter supporting NPC designation with a few exceptions (no liquor store, that sort of thing). The main problem with the Thoreau Center is that there's no parking, but the church just south of the Center is willing to allow people to park in their lot except during church functions. Mac moved to write a letter of support, Liz seconds, motion passes.

### New Business

1. First Christian Church sign change

The signs that face university and also 25<sup>th</sup> street are very old, and they would like to replace the signs with LED signs. The City has reservations about a scrolling LED sign, and so asked us to write a letter of support or not. The sign will not change regularly (i.e. it won't be a flashing sign). Some people were concerned that the signs would look tacky. Others argued that, given that Walgreens has a similar sign, does it make sense for use to reject it? This is fairly speculative about it right now. It was suggested that perhaps a representative from the church can come and we can have more of a conversation regarding our concerns and their needs. Deric will ask them to come to a future meeting.

### Adjourn Business Meeting

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8:18 p.m.

### Board Presentations

- 2809 Rutland— The building is zoned R3. It is currently vacant. There are no parking places on the property. The owners have filed several adjustments, including allowing people to park directly up to the alley. All of this would be in violation of standard requirements, so the owner (John Caponi) would like a variance. If we don't support it, even if it is zoned R3, they can't use it as a multifamily if they don't have enough parking places. It won't go back to single family, but they won't get a rental certificate. Some people were concerned that nobody had contacted the neighborhood about this. If we don't support changes, it will probably remain vacant for a while longer. Kristina

moves that we do not approve a variance for non-conforming parking at 2809 Rutland, based upon the information provided to us, Sean seconds, motion passes.

- Relay Water Stations. There was a fair amount of confusion about the water station, because we haven't been contacted. Because things have changed, it looks like we need to be proactive. Erica will organize this.
- Relay Parade. People wanted to do this as long as it's pretty easy. People should be at the parking lot on 25<sup>th</sup> and Carpenter at 1:00 on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- DNA archive. Erica wanted to know if anyone has anything left that needs to be put in the archives. Drake is writing a grant to have them organized and archived on software online, and then you can get the information at the library. Erica needs to be sure that we have all of the information. It looks like she does, but she still needs electronic information from the pre-dropbox era. She'll put up a folder in Dropbox for people to upload that information.
- Street painting (April 24<sup>th</sup>). Our block from last year lasted a long time, but it was also somewhat expensive (\$150). Mac moves to fund the square.
- May events: Movie night and the garden tour. There are six gardens planned for the tour. Both Dahls are on board to sell tickets. Scott will talk to Herndon's. Sean will be in contact with the new owner of Loki's. There are people working on selling ads.
- Website: Kevin and Deric have been trained. Any committee chair should have access to changing information on the site.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:10.**