

OSCA Meeting May 3, 2010, Davis Middle School 6:30 p.m.

The membership present constituted a quorum so the meeting was called to order by President Ryan Bunner at 7:10 pm May 3, 2010. Members in attendance were asked to speak freely and ask any questions they had in regards to the formation of the new civic association and to consider volunteering for various committee assignments.

Officers in attendance, President Ryan Bunner, Dublin VP and Webmaster Jeremy Block, Treasurer Ben Meehan, Worthington VP Suzy Baker and Secretary Terry Wilson.

Attendance over 85 people.

Ryan asked attendees if they did receive a copy of the community newsletter, had they visited the new web site, and asked who was already a paid member. (Took a non official--- visual count----- by show of hands). Most in attendance had read the newsletter and been online, over half were new members.

Introductory speech by Ryan about the idea and philosophy of getting the civic org up and running again. Basically, the Association was gone and we were starting over so lets put old issues to rest and move forward once and for all.

Reviewed how the orgs temporary board has been working behind the scenes for the last several months and what the interim structure is.

Introductions of board members.

Open the floor to interests and questions from the attendees:

1. *Chris Anderson-realtor-said that a question raised a lot in the past was----"where does the money go from the dues that members have paid"?* **Ryan responded that monies coming in now will fund existing committees and planned activities of the OSCA. Then discussed some of the ideas that the group has talked about, going forward. The Books that were turned over to the new board have been reviewed and all the numbers were in order, but history revealed that group membership declined and funds stopped coming in. There is a little bit of money that has been transferred over and there is one bill still to deal with. There is a new bank account set up for "new association".**
2. *Attendee comment—"Request to let members know where the monies will be spent going forward. (How transparent will we be going forward?) Can we post or somehow make visible the funds or balance available?"* **Ryan responded that we have discussed the transparency of almost all activities to keep all members in the loop. Budget will be seen in some form but still working out how to accommodate members without sending sensitive information out online. As of right now-**

\$250 for newsletter / \$180 for P.O. Box / \$350 for Santa / \$75 roughly for paint/wood/hardware for signs / small insurance policy to protect the board members and OSCA harmless.

3. *Attendee question—“How do we envision committees or their structure going forward and how members will be assigned to what areas, would there be an overall steering committee?”* **Ryan explained the current plan. Ryan answered there were 5 committees and chairman for those committees were being reviewed or recruited and an organization being put into place.**
4. *Question—“about by laws-----will they be sent out to members?”* *Attendee stated that one of the past problems he observed was that most decision making was done by only a handful of people. It was suggested that the decisions being made for the group should be open to members?* **Ryan answered that we may have elections on line which would make them totally visible. We desire for the community members to have input because it is their organization. We will be able to make more things transparent than in the past with communication technology.**
5. *Question—related to communication needs for people without kids in school. Attendee mentioned that “members without kids in schools currently do not hear about all the activities they used to hear about, when they had kids in the local schools”.* **Ryan- Website /facebook/ newsletter and new sandwich boards will facilitate communication to everyone**

Alarming comment about the Davis Parking lot being used as a drug drop off. How do we address these issues? **Jeremy- responded that we would have a website that is not static. There is a forum section where you can sign in and post comments. One use of the forum is a crime watch or block watch area which is open to anyone to make comments. If we see problems in the neighborhood we will begin to post them more often on the website.**

Ryan- there will be a block watch again too help with these issues.

6. *Attendee stated---* *“What can we do ourselves to inhibit drug deals in the local parking lot?”* **Big Statement—call the Police 645-4545 they will respond to a call if,----- you tell them you are placing the call concerning an incident that shares a property line with a school property and they will respond quickly.**
7. *Attendee noted----* *“What about our group getting involved with the bigger NW Area Coalition? What about the vacant shopping center and other issues in the neighborhood?”* **Ryan - he is aware and wanted to put that on the agenda, but wanted to have a strength in numbers behind him**

before talking to Casto concerning the shopping center. Chris Anderson said he was previously assigned as a rep for our area. "You can learn a lot about what is happening and they meet once a month at the NW Library". A representative will begin to attend NW Coalition again and report at monthly meeting. Someone in attendance suggested we contact John Best! The Far West coalition is the group City Council uses for input.

8. *Attendee asked---*"How will we keep up with neighborhood turnover to ensure new neighbors will be informed of the association and benefits of belonging?" **Ryan- explained how we are planning to achieve the goal of reaching new neighbors through a plan with the membership committee, nearby neighbors, realtors.**

Ryan responded that the membership drive that is on now and will continue indefinitely.

Chris Anderson suggested membership window stickers. Suzy added that membership ID is on our list of issues, but priorities what they are right now and we are working through them one by one. Her guess is that CATCH OSCA Fever may be the phrase for the sticker. Ryan responded that we talked about a window sticker but we have not hashed out a final idea. However, this requires money and although a great idea, not a top priority at moment.

9. *Attendee asked---*"Is there a projection involved with what the projects to be tackled would be? Who would decide what the money would be sent on?" **Ryan -we are being very efficient with the money so far and will continue to do so. Newsletter expense was reduced to a cost of only \$250 for just over 1000 copies and hand delivered by volunteers (\$500 savings). Landscaping issues are being addressed by a committee of volunteers and that will be cost savings. We can't do anything without the group support and participation. Committee's will determine projects and priorities with-in areas of need and board will prioritize the top from each committee.**

10. *Attendee asked---*"How will we get the feedback from the members to help decide what will be done?" **Ryan- We have Facebook and website forums, committee's and meetings that should be more than enough to receive feedback. But working on potential to get voting done through website on big issues / expenditures.**

11. *Someone commented-----*"Talking about membership and fees—in newer neighborhoods there is no choice. They must join, and it is expensive, but that is new neighborhoods". **Ryan- we would have to find other ways to fund; via sponsorships, donations, advertisement revenue , etc. We can't force people to join and don't want to if we could.**

12. Ryan announced that--- Committees and signup sheets will be in different parts of the room so feel free to sign up right after the meeting. **The board meets every month and eventually every other meeting we will have a bigger meeting space for the membership. If a member has an issue to address with the board they can be accommodated but need to let us know for the agenda.**
13. *Anne Brown suggested that" members identify themselves when they stand to speak so people in the group can informally meet each other". Perhaps we make time for networking before or after the meeting. Ann also suggested we should be aware of the potential ash borer issue, and can we contact the city about this?---And---- Worthington voted to have Trick or Treat on Sunday evening. Columbus will have a different schedule this year. Can we coordinate **Trick or Treat** in our neighborhood? **Landscape and aesthetics will need to add ash borer to the list of concerns! Events committee will need to address Trick or treat and then OSCA will help advertise agreed night.***
14. *Attendee asked-----"What is the update on parks for the area?" Ryan-we are still trying to connect the new park committee with the old park committee. There is money in a fund to operate it to a small degree. The city suggested the park be taken down and replaced with something else. To restore the park the city could only supply a small % of the needed funds and we would have to get volunteers. There is a small amount of equipment in the old storeroom. Jeremy said he has talked to the city of Columbus and they may be sending out someone to open the storeroom. Hopefully the park issue will be resolved soon.*
15. *Attendee comment on Volunteers—"high school kids in Dublin are required to complete community service projects. Could we tap the resource from the high school seniors to help with some of our projects". **PTO coordinator will look into this and should involve Service committee.***
16. *Attendee comment---"Can we send a rep to city council to request funds to help with the park." If you near the park and you see suspicious activity, casually check it out and most of the time the persons in question will leave. Also suggested that we address the graffiti. **Park committee will need to look into weather City funds are available. Block Watch/safety committee needs to address other.***
17. *Attendee stated a question-"How do we become a strong association?" **Ryan -Not just through numbers—but through action and organization not through just talking. We have a good group of volunteers. We can***

achieve the goals we have through strategic planning. We have the ability to plan and communicate. We have Facebook, a website, newsletters, meetings already scheduled and this is just the beginning. *Another question--"Can we model after some existing associations to get ideas and suggestions about how to organize and achieve goals?"* **Reply- was that we have looked at and talked to many other groups and we will continue to do so.**

Comment—many organizations are successful as the result of rallying around big issues/hot buttons that unify efforts and bring the neighborhood together. IE; The vacant shopping centers, park issues, crime.

18. *Comment from a 19 year neighbor about deed restrictions. "Can we make sure that deed restrictions are known and being followed?"* Ryan—we can do that. But then it was stated by another attendee that "deed restriction expired in 2005". Can we put them back into effect? **Aesthetics will need to investigate this and possibly come up with a new membership approved "best practices" for our properties.**
19. May 12 a meeting of NW Civic Associations---a unified group of neighborhood associations-- is being held in the Griswold Center, Worthington at 7 pm may 12. We should have a rep present to observe, comment and take notes! **An OSCA board member will be there!**
20. *John who lives on Seddon—asked "what are the long term plans and yearly budget projections? Will you make the budget or let the budget dictate the plan?"* **Ryan -we had to crawl before we walk and one of the concerns is that all that has been talked about for the last 5 years was the entranceways. There are other issues like the Smokey Row trash, the park, speeding, illegal drugs, no police liaison and breaking into cars. There are a lot important issues we want to address. But we need members to join so we will have a group behind the neighborhood and some funding to put plans that we develop into motion. Community feedback through committees and social media will drive our strategic plan and budget. Once we get a year under our belt a more solid plan and budget will be instituted.**
21. *Committees question—"what will they do"?* **Ryan - that there have not been individual committee meetings yet. Committees are in the beginning stages and and we still need committee chairs!! Once established, they will meet and be responsible for putting forth the manpower to facilitate action.**
22. *Comment---"Roads in the neighborhood--- and the issue of making a contact with the city for maintenance".* **Ryan- We need a unified voice, then we**

can begin to campaign for issues we think need to be addressed. Snow removal, potholes etc. We need members and a unified base to call on issues the group wants addressed.

23. *Question---*“With summer around the corner is it possible to get information about potential crime out to the group?” **In the future we will be looking into having a speaker from the Police department who can take questions and make official comments about neighborhood watch groups etc.**
24. *Request* “Can we have another big meeting soon? If we wait until August it seems like it will be too late. How will members know what progress is being made”. **Ryan-that we can accommodate anyone who wants to attend the board meetings on the first Monday of every month. We may tie some committee meetings in with that idea, or committees can meet separately and report to the board later.**
25. **Thanks to the board members for hard work in getting OSCA back up and running from the group.**
26. **Ann has lived for 20 years on Olde Sawmill. She said that because the garage sale in June, it presents an opportunity for the group for self promotion. If each one of us recruits members during the garage sale we have an opportunity to add members to the group.**
27. **Comment about leash law and dogs running loose when they are on walks with their owners. Neighbor feels that all dogs should be in leashes and under control for the safety of others. Also commented that owners should step up and be responsible for cleaning up after their dogs when walking them.**
28. At this point the group had break outs into committees for volunteering/discussion. 8:17

Note that Anne brown would be a valuable contact for the group because she is the Community Relations/Public Information Officer for the City of Worthington. Her phone is 614-854-7173. Email her at brown@ci.worthington.oh.us

26 new members resulted from tonight’s meeting at Davis.