



MVNA General Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2010
Monroe School 3641 Missouri Avenue

6:30 - 7:00 pm Police and NSO Reports

7:00 pm MVNA meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, and members introduced themselves.

A representative from PoundPals dropped off flyers about their free spay/neuter service for low-income residents. In 2008, over 25,000 animals were euthanized in the city. PoundPals offers spay/neuter services in order to prevent animal overpopulation.

Guest Speaker: Anna Jinkerson, Outreach Coordinator, Office of Russ Carnahan

Jinkerson gave updates on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and healthcare reform. Carnahan fully supported ARRA. Since passing it, Congress has made loan to over 40,000 small businesses, providing them with \$18 billion in capital. Congress has also funding construction projects, with over 7,800 in progress. Missouri has received about 50% of the funding for the state; more money will be received as projects start. The pedestrian/traffic project on South Grand is an example of one local project. Congress has provided \$60 billion for education, and Governor Nixon said money received has prevented the cutting of thousands of education jobs in Missouri. Jinkerson noted that funding from ARRA is just getting started; there will be ongoing funding to support redevelopment. The foundation for a high-speed rail network will be laid soon. Jinkerson encouraged residents to visit www.recovery.gov for more information. Jinkerson noted a couple of tax incentives that people might be interested in. The first-time homebuyer tax credit is still available, and there is a deduction for sales tax paid on cars purchased in the past year. There are also tax benefits for weatherizing your home, and for purchasing energy efficient appliances.

On the topic of healthcare reform, Jinkerson stated that Carnahan is committed to an affordable, accessible, and accountable bill. Carnahan wants to move forward and is working with all sides.

Documentary Photography Project: Gena Brady Allen: Allen has been documenting city life for over 10 years. She wants to document all the neighborhoods in St. Louis, and is starting with Marine Villa. She is interested in architecture, local businesses, community history and tradition, and personal stories. Allen will be shooting until the end of April, and welcomes all ideas and stories.

Alderman Reports

Craig Schmid – Ward 20: Schmid began by discussing the city's earnings tax. A group has initial approval to place an item on the state ballot that would require cities to not have an earnings tax. If this item passes, services will be reduced in the city. St. Louis receives around \$140 million, roughly 1/3 of the city tax revenue, through the earnings tax. For the fiscal year 2011, St. Louis will already have a \$45 million budget deficit. A major source of this deficit is the city's defined benefit plan for employees. With this plan, the city has to make up shortfalls caused by the stock market. On January 26, the Ways and Means Committee will meet to discuss which services might be cut to make up the budget deficit. A major target is track pickup, and there is already a pilot program in place testing weekly pickups.

Schmid and Ortmann recently sponsored legislation on a nuisance law. If something is serious enough, the safety director will send out a letter after only one call. This will help speed up processes like removing tenants from condemned buildings.

Schmid emphasized the importance of the Census. It is important to respond and be counted for representation in government, as well as the receipt of federal funds. This area generally has a very low response rate.

Ken Ortmann – Ward 9: Ortmann discussed the weekly trash pickup pilot program. The city is responding to some complaints by installing larger dumpsters or more dumpsters in alleys. Ortmann encouraged residents to recycle. The city is also considering putting out more recycling dumpsters (these dumpsters are paid for out of the ward budgets).

Ortmann noted that for the tax foreclosure properties the city has obtained, it has been difficult to get developers to take them. Banks are not making as many loans on such properties. If developers don't take properties, we will lose more and more buildings in the area. Ortmann gave an update on the Grace Hill/Carnival Supply issue. The former Carnival Supply building on the north side will be rehabbed, and the building on the south side will be demolished for a parking lot for Grace Hill.

Ortmann asked that residents be vigilant about reporting prostitution in the neighborhood. Residents should call the police, NSOs, and aldermen if they see anything suspicious. We have to work on this as a neighborhood to prevent this issue from creeping back in.

Committee Reports

Marketing- Marty Dames: Marty was unable to attend.

Beautification- Jeff Weitzel: Jeff Weitzel and Susan Wiegand are co-chairs. They discussed trash/litter control and ways to make this sort of work more enjoyable (for example, a trash/pub crawl). Picking up trash is an easy, affordable way to make Marine Villa look better.

Membership- Shannon McGinn: Shannon is thinking about ways to increase membership, as well as fun events for members. Talk to or email Shannon if you have ideas to share. Shannon distributed membership cards during the meeting to those who renewed their membership.

President's Report: Pam discussed goals for 2010, including creating a positive atmosphere at meetings, increasing membership, and showing people the good things in Marine Villa. Pam also discussed possible events for the year, including a neighborhood yard sale, events at the Old Firehouse, and the cookie spree/bake sale.

UMSL's Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) will take place soon. Pam recommended that MVNA sponsor Shannon McGinn. NLA would provide a scholarship for half of the cost, and MVNA will pick up the other half.

Treasury Report : MVNA has \$1684 in its account. This includes \$750 of the newsletter grant.

Minutes Approved

Old Business: MVNA is still working on getting street banners installed in the neighborhood. Craig is obtaining cost and other information from the city.

New Business: Volunteers are needed to work on the MVNA newsletter.

Open discussion: None

Adjourn