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DGNA Meeting Minutes: July 1

The July 1 meeting of Dimmitt's Grove Neighborhood Association was held at the Marie Litta Park at 7 PM. President Brad Williams called the meeting to order. Minutes were approved. Eight neighbors were in attendance. There was no treasurer's report.

The neighborhood flea market had more sales than we've had for a few years. Fourteen neighbors signed up, but two did not open because of rain. The early rain cleared up and sales recovered well. Ad and printing costs were \$12 more than the \$5 fees brought in.

Our new fund-raiser, a bake sale at the Farmer's Market, will be on July 31. Terri Clemens and Brenda Steele are the committee for this event. Guidelines are on the website for pricing and suggestions. Items should be labeled for nuts, no gluten, no sugar, etc. and priced. If pricing is a problem for bakers, they can be delivered to 606 E. Grove the day before unpriced. We will be setting up at 6:30 at the free non-profit space at the Farmer's Market. We need bakers. This is an opportunity for those who have benefited from the association to contribute. Dawn and Diana will help at the sale. Please contact Terri at oldstuff33@hotmail.com if you can bake or help.

We need hosts for the summer traveling social hour. The first volunteer can choose a date. Please contact Jerica to volunteer at jetheridge@edmc.edu. It is also time to start planning our next Day in Historic Dimmitt's Grove. We need volunteers for a committee to begin planning. Please contact Jerica at jetheridge@edmc.edu.

Some fireworks problems are bothering neighborhood dogs and ears. Karen Schmidt is providing city ordinance information on the website. Karen Schmidt planted the Adopt-a-Pot planter for DGNA on Front and Prairie Streets.

The next meeting Sept. 2, will be at Marie Litta Park unless it rains, then it will be at the library.

DGNA Meeting Minutes: September 2

The Sept meeting of the Dimmitt's Grove Neighborhood Association was called to order by President Brad Williams at the Bloomington Library at 7:10 PM on Sept. 2. Guests in attendance were County Board candidate Susan Schafer and Bloomington Policeman Scott Sikora. Susan Schafer spoke for a few minutes about her candidacy. She is running against incumbent Cathy Ahart. Susan lives in a subdivision southwest of Bloomington. She describes herself as a fiscal and social conservative. When asked about her positions on form-based zoning and wind farms, she said she is weighing the pros and cons of each issue. She expects the county's most important upcoming concern to be money.

Scott Sikora talked to the association about police efforts in our neighborhood. Several break-ins have occurred in the area lately. Break-ins have been up all over town. Keep an eye on your neighborhood and if you see something out of order, please call the police. Keep your cars and garage doors locked.

Treasurer Melanie Hunter reported that our balance is \$2442.79. A deposit of \$540.75 from the bake sale will add to that total.

A meeting will be held in the near future to discuss the future of our event Day in Historic Dimmitt's Grove. A notice should appear in the newsletter. A list is being compiled of vacant houses in the neighborhood, as the city is working on a vacant house policy. If there is a vacant house near you, please contact Brad Williams at his new email baw613@gmail.com.

Pam and Herb Eaton will host the Chili Cook-off this year on Sunday Oct. 3 at 512 E. Taylor at 4:30. Founders' Grove Neighborhood Association will be joining us for this event. They in turn are inviting our neighborhood to join them for a costume party the next weekend. See the newsletter for this invitation.

Brad reported that the park kiosk needs paint. He will report it to the city. Brad is retiring from posting the newsletter in the kiosk. Melanie Hunter will take over this duty. Terri Clemens will assist the newsletter's web manager Stephanie Davidson by soliciting newsletter articles.

The next meeting will be at the home of Melanie Hunter and Stephanie Davidson, 603 E. Grove on Thursday Nov. 4 at 7 PM.

Bake Sale Report

The first annual Dimmitt's Grove Bake Sale took place July 30 at the Farmer's Market. We sold out, thanks to Karen Schmidt who came along and bought all we had left before 11:00. We added \$540.75 to the coffers of the neighborhood association. Maybe with some effort next year and a successful future Day in Dimmitt's Grove, we can get those sidewalk grants going again.

Thanks to bakers and those who manned the booth:

Brenda Steele

Terri Clemens

Karen Schmidt

Ardie Nowers

Jerica Etheridge

Vanessa Youngmark

Carol Kashian

Pam Eaton

Terry Beitz

Diana Krieg

Dawn Peters

We hope more neighbors will join the effort next year. The Farmer's Market is a great place for a bake sale.

Oscar Mandel House Restoration

It has been a busy summer at the Mandel House. On the outside of the house we have been working on exterior painting. There is a fresh coat of paint on all of the first floor clapboards and windows. The only remaining areas to paint are the front porch and the second floor area, directly above the porch. The porch sports a lot of detail including lots of corbels and quarter rounds, wooden beadwork, and intricate hand carvings on some of the posts. All of this detail, as well as the zinc coated tin pediment relief are buried under layers of paint. The porch is going to be a fair piece of paint prep work.

On the interior of the house we have been working on repairing plaster in the remaining 3 bedrooms (one of which will be an office) on the second floor, as well as the landing and hallway upstairs. After the initial round of plaster repair we had several friends over to prime all of the repaired walls. It was instant gratification...3 hours later everything was painted, with primer tinted in the final room colors, and the rooms looked great. Of course since then we have gone back and made minor repairs to all of the freshly primed walls, so there are spots of white drywall compound everywhere. The latest round of wall repairs will have to be sanded down and everything will have to be re-primed before topcoat painting can be done.

We have retained the plaster in the vast majority of the house, however, we opted to remove the plaster in the backdoor stairway areas. This plaster was all badly damaged (cracks and moisture) and one of the walls had been repaired (badly) with drywall at some point. We decided that since this was a utility area and part of the “new” basement, we would drywall instead of re-plaster. The area has high steeply angled ceilings over stairs. After not too much consideration we decided that we’d let someone else tackle this drywall job. A fall from a ladder during the plaster demo validated this decision. The drywall is up and almost ready to prime.



There has been one room, on the second floor, that we have rarely ventured into during the course of our restoration work. One of the bedrooms has a full bath adjoining it. This bathroom can only be accessed from the bedroom, there is no hallway access. The bathroom, tiled from floor to ceiling with white tile, has been a daunting project from day one. The room was filthy and several of the tile were missing, cracked/chipped, or in danger of breaking free from their mortar bed. We would occasionally open the door to assess the status of the tile, and carefully remove those tile that appeared to be in danger

of falling. As with the rest of the house, we wanted to preserve/restore vs. remodel, but we weren’t sure what to do with this room. The walls and ceiling are clad in 4 inch crackle glaze white tile and the floor is ¾ inch unglazed porcelain squares. Of course neither type of tile is readily available today. We had ¾ inch unglazed porcelain squares made by American Restoration Tile to replace cracked and/or missing floor tile. The 4 inch wall/ceiling tile could also be reproduced, but a color match could not be guaranteed and the cost to produce the quantity needed to make repairs was....well, ridiculous. We kicked around a lot of ideas about how to integrate new tile as seamlessly as possible while at the same time keeping as much of the original wall/ceiling tile in place as we could. We ended up using quantities of 3 different period appropriate tiles to create an inset pattern around the tub. We were able to salvage enough of the original 4 inch tile that we had to remove around the tub, to make repairs in other areas of the room.



The “new/old” tile looks like it belongs and the repairs look great.... and that was the goal. Thanks to our friend Anthony Green who has once again faced and conquered the tile repair challenges in the Mandel House. He says to quit calling him, but we don’t take him seriously, because he always comes back.... We’ll be calling him soon to work on bathroom floor repairs, but we have to remove the radiator pipes first (just as we did in the master bathroom). Plans for the next few weeks are to complete exterior painting, get the upstairs bedrooms and hallway painted, install another round of light fixtures, set fixtures and install tub/shower faucet in the guest bathroom, repair and paint the walls of the main staircase and restore more windows. – *Diana Krieg*

Stories in the Neighborhood: What Next?

One of our early 20 something tenants had misplaced his cell phone (a major thing!)...He quipped, “why don’t they invent a phone that attaches to the wall, then I won’t lose it”.

Of course, we all caught the joke and laughed. But, have you thought about what a difference there is in the life of an early 20 something and a mid 60’s person at the same time in life....WOW...I was that same age in the late 1960’s. Cell phone, what was that? Now, of course, the cell phone itself is undergoing a change. It has gone from the lowly item you used to simply send and receive calls to a handheld computer. Web surfing, email, you name it, it is available all in the form of a phone.

And now comes the ‘you don’t have to plug it in’ appliance...yes, you read that correctly, ‘no wire or plug’. Induction is a way to transfer energy in magnetic waveform. It is currently used in cook tops as a fast and energy efficient way to create heat in a cooking pan or pot that will attract a magnet.

This same method has been applied to new kitchens (the very avant garde, of course). The power source is located below the countertop with ‘hot spots’...an area where you can literally set down an appliance and turn it on, it will run using induction to transfer the power from the wired hot spot to the appliance. These kitchens also come with a ‘plug’ that can get set on a hot spot to use an appliance that is not induction equipped. Look for them in the next 5 yrs...or check out this chosen at random website to see one <http://michellekaufmann.com/2010/06/power-without-wires/>

Of course “geeks” will know that you can already purchase laptops and cell phones that recharge by simply setting them down on an induction powered pad...(Did you ever think there would be a house that may not need plugs).

Think of a standard vacuum that does not need to be plugged in, it simply draws it’s power as it goes through the house via induction...nice no cord to plug and unplug...or for the dog to chew!

And to close ... a high school senior talking to his great uncle said “Uncle, you cannot possibly understand the world I live in, when you were growing up, there were no cell phones, there were no x box units and many other things...”..The uncle replied, “yes, I know, that is why we invented them for you, now, what will you invent for the generation following you?”....what a question that is, what will it be.....?

- *Bob Russano*

Upcoming Events

@ the Bloomington Public Library

Complete, up-to-date list of programs with times & descriptions & registration info here:

http://www.bloomingtonlibrary.org/see_&_do/programs/

@ the McLean County Museum of History

Saturday, November 20: Tart 'n Tasty Apple Tasting Event

Back by popular demand! Many people do not realize how many varieties of apples there truly are: sweet, tart, crunchy, chewy, large, small, yellow, red or green. Apples are not only categorized by their taste and appearance, but also how well they can be preserved and what they are used for as well. To help educate people about the apple, the Museum will be holding an Apple Tasting Fest on Saturday, November 20th, 2010 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. For \$5 per adult and \$2 per child, you will receive admission to the Museum and be able to sample a variety of apples, apple baked goods, and two kinds of apple cider. Registration is limited so please contact the Museum's Education Department at (309) 827-0428 or via email at education@mchistory.org to register by November 8th, 2010. This event is being held in conjunction with the Museum's current exhibit *Come and Get It! The Way We Ate 1830-2008*, and is sponsored in part by a gift from State Farm.

For more information about Museum Events and Exhibits, please see <http://www.mchistory.org/>. Note that the museum is closed December 24-25 for the Christmas Holiday, and December 31 and January 1 for the New Years Holiday.