

# Millwood Neighborhood Association

## Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** 10/22/2024

**Location:** IBEW Local 131 Building

**Attendees:** Ethan Seguin, Michele Momotiuk, Dave Buskirk, Scott Stokes

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### 1. Introductions to the Board

- Introductions were made by current board members to welcome new attendees and community guests.
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### 2. Introductions to Community Resources

- **Community Policing Officers (CPOs)**
  - **Officers:** Samantha Schmeltz and Maney, who have been part of the Community Policing unit for two years, primarily serving the Edison area.
  - **Crime Statistics:** The most common crimes are larcenies from vehicles (often involving juveniles) and aggravated assaults (mainly domestic incidents). Crime peaks during Friday and Saturday mornings.
  - **Crime Hotspots:** High call volumes are noted at Banbury Road apartments.
  - **Initiatives:**
    - **Gun Amnesty Program:** Partnering with local churches to collect firearms anonymously.
    - **Fusus Camera Program:** A camera-sharing program enabling businesses and residents to control police access to footage for safety purposes.
    - **Traffic Enforcement:** Acknowledged the need for additional trained officers and better signage on Portage Road's exit ramps.
    - **Speed Bumps:** Recent installations in Edison have improved neighborhood traffic safety.
- **County Commissioner (John Taylor)**
  - **Budget and Homelessness Initiatives:** Reviewed the new county budget and discussed a neighborhood homelessness shelter project designed to keep families together and provide a pathway to permanent housing.
  - **Community Connection:** Commissioner Taylor will ensure direct communication between the MNA and county representatives on homelessness projects.

- **Housing Developments:** The Old Residence Inn building will be repurposed into apartments, with a new complex planned for Portage Road.
  - **City Commissioner (Chris Praedel)**
    - **Infrastructure Improvements:** A Department of Transportation grant will fund road improvements for Cork Street, Lovers Lane, and Portage Road by 2026.
    - **Park and Utility Updates:** Neighborhood parks have been or will be upgraded, and 5,000 lead service lines have been replaced in Kalamazoo.
    - **Early Voting:** New polling locations are opening at the Expo Center, Douglass Community Center, Parks & Rec, and one additional site.
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### 3. Recent Events and Objectives

- **Completed Events and Accomplishments:**
    - **National Night Out:** MNA partnered with Greenwood Reformed Church and Thread Church for the event.
    - **Imagine Kalamazoo 2035:** MNA participated in city planning initiatives.
    - **One Well Block Party:** Held a successful community event, including face painting for neighborhood engagement.
    - **By-Laws:** By-laws were completed by Jax.
    - **Food Drive:** A food drive was organized with Milwood Elementary to benefit Loaves and Fishes, with fliers and details set for distribution.
  - **Goals and Ongoing Partnerships:**
    - **Happy Cities Program:** MNA board members are participating to support community well-being initiatives.
    - **City Planning Feedback:** Plans to attend upcoming city feedback sessions for Imagine Kalamazoo.
    - **Elementary School Partnership:** MNA intends to increase support for Greenwood Elementary and engage the broader neighborhood.
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### 4. Community Input and Requests

- **Feedback Opportunities:** Residents are invited to provide feedback on MNA's logo, Mission Statement, Purpose, Vision, and by-laws, available online for review.
- **Questions and Answers:**
  - **Previous Neighborhood Association Funds:** Status unknown, as past documentation was lost, though the 501(c)(3) status remains active.
  - **Communication Channels:** Information is being shared via the MNA website, Neighborhood Facebook page, news outlets, radio, and an email chain.
- **Resident Suggestions:**
  - Establish a regular meeting schedule to improve accessibility.
  - Create flyers with QR codes linking to the MNA website.

- Explore options for a neighborhood newsletter or integration with city communications.
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## **5. Special Guests and Future Meetings**

- **Next Meeting:**
  - Plans to invite the mayor, housing project commissioner, and other neighborhood commissioners.
  - Voting for additional board members will take place, with nominations currently open.