

Pinecrest Parent Council Meeting Notes

5/4/2021

6:00-7:30pm Virtual Meeting through Zoom

Call to Order

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Ron Bacon- City Council Presentation

- Elaine Hardy- Here to discuss the Robert L. Green Project
- Robert L. Green broke the red lining barriers in East Lansing in the 1960's.
- Redlining describes undesirable areas in a neighborhood that people did not want to live in. If you moved into that area, you were considered to be living in an undesirable area. East Lansing was using this as a way to keep Black, Brown, and Foreign-born individuals from moving into East Lansing.
- Robert L. Green is a prominent civil rights figure for East Lansing and nationwide
- We would like to educate the East Lansing community on our Civil Rights history
- We are looking to place a historical marker on the property in which he lived in East Lansing and at the park across the street, as well as a public structure named (hopefully a school) after him.
- On November 20, 1962, John F. Kennedy banned redlining in housing practices. Robert Green was a professor at MSU at the time and was denied the right to purchase a home in East Lansing. The day after the president signed this order, Dr. Green used this executive order in order to sue and purchase a home.
- Many civil right strategies and events were planned within his home on Bessemaur St. in East Lansing.
- He remained positive about East Lansing and later bought another home in East Lansing. His children were the first black students to go to school at Pinecrest.
- He had offers from President Hannah (MSU) to purchase a home for him, but he declined because he knew this would not help the next black person to purchase a home in East Lansing.
- Adam DeLay- lives next door to Robert L. Green's home in East Lansing. He also learned about restricted covenants in East Lansing as well that placed restrictions on certain areas of land only allowing Caucasian people to purchase homes within that area.
- Even when Dr. Green purchased the home, it did not solve all of the redlining issues. The City of East Lansing found other ways to continue those practices until later in the 60's.
- Right now, the Robert L. Green Project Committee's proposal is in review.
- These steps speak to our intentionality and need to move forward yet still keeping a history of what we're moving forward from. When we're not intentional, it's easy to slide back into bad patterns.
- The committee's goal is that this proposal remains apolitical and more of a celebration of our community and allowing us to open the conversation. We have received very little resistance.

We've received a lot of support. We want to make sure that the community is aware of the proposal and in support of the proposal. We don't want to step on any toes and want everyone to participate. The school board would be the eventually make the decision on if we can change the name of Pinecrest.

- We also wanted to make sure that we reached out to the Pinecrest Parent Council to inform you of the committee's work and to gain your input.
- Do you have any resources you can provide us to help share the word and tell the story of Robert Green? Yes, we are looking to create a one sheeter that would provide information on the committee's proposal. And we will share the PowerPoint presentation with you as well. We appreciate your support and anything you can do to help spread the word.
- We are looking to start at the grass roots and work with the community first to teach them more about East Lansing's history.

Officer Reports

President: Tanya Merritt

- No Updates

Vice President: Katie Van Dorn

- No updates for this section

Treasurer: Lisa Parker and Megan Drouare

- Not a whole lot happening financially. Meghan and Lisa went through what we provide to the accountant for taxes. Lisa electronically introduced Meghan to the accountant, so they know who to contact for next year.
- We are proposing to close the PNC Bank and start a new one at MSU FCU. We would look into opening a square account for our credit card accounts. Meghan is going to arrange this over the summer to be prepared for the Fall 2021.
- Do we have a motion to switch bank accounts from the PNC to the MSU FCU? Lisa makes the motion, Katie seconds.
- What are the benefits of moving to MSU FCU?
 - We get charged lots of fees at PNC, at MSU FCU there are no fees. We currently pay around \$400 per year in fees at PNC.
 - Moving to square with a credit card swipe with MSU FCU, we would have the ability to swipe cards when we're at an event. Currently, we only can take cash with PNC.
 - The site that we used for the scavenger hunt, they have their own credit card system. For things like that we won't need it. But I can look into with square if we can still do online transactions. There is a small transaction fee for using the square, but we'll likely set a minimum purchase to make sure it's worth it.
- We are going to put the President, Vice President, and Treasurer all on the account so that we have 3 people with account abilities.
- We have a motion to switch bank accounts. 2nd. Approved.

Secretary: Jasmine Bentley and Rachel Perez

- We are able to close out Spring Spirit Wear Orders. We earned \$591 total!
- Very few issues with the processing of orders

Principal: Amy Webster

- We are in the midst of end of year testing. MSTEP will begin as early as May 11th with 5th grade. We are also doing end of year Aimsweb Screeners.
- We did send out an email to spark some interest in PPC membership but did not receive much in response. We had a few emails back.
- Should I have received a response back on my registration with the summer curriculum? If you want to send a follow up email you can send it to me and I can reach out to our curriculum director, Glen Mitcham.
- Thank you for the breakfast on Monday, we appreciate it! The order from Panera went very well.

Teacher Representative: Mrs. Schneyer:

Volunteer Coordinators: Ida Nadia Sedro

Book Fair Coordinator: Lisa Parker

- I am looking for someone to take over the book fair for next year. Hopefully for the Fall we may be able to have a face-to-face book fair. Please let me know if you're interested in helping with this. I would be able to show someone how to do it in the Fall and then they can take over for the Spring.
 - Karen McClosky volunteers to assist with the Book Fair.
- We should put together a list of all of the events that we need officers for. That may be a way to engage new people.
- Amy Webster- Amy and I are thinking about putting together a book with directions on how to do things, i.e. request tables to be set up for events, etc.
 - Karen says she'll help with updating the PPC binder.
 - Could we do an electronic version of it? We could use the PPC Google Drive
 - Katie recently updated this. She has updated the PPC Officer role descriptions.
 - We should probably look at the bylaws too.
 - Katie says she would do a process document for the science fair.

Officer Elections:

- 2020-2021 Officers:
 - o President: Rachel Perez
 - o Vice President: Karen McClosky
 - o Treasurer: Meghan Droure (Lisa Parker as Co-Treasurer)
 - o Secretary:
 - o Website Coordinator: Abigail Tykocki
 - o Book Fair Coordinator: Karen McClosky

- We need to review each position description and make sure it's up to date but we should review the bylaws to see how to do that.
 - o Where are the bylaws? They're in the binder, maybe on the website?

Old Business

- Teacher Appreciation Week:
 - o We purchased Panera breakfast for the staff.

New Business:

- Regan: Community School Garden
 - o Group was created by Nicole Biber
 - o We are looking to create a community school garden at Pinecrest. We are proposing the North side of the Pinecrest Playground
 - o We are proposing to have garden beds for community members and then 6 raised beds, one for each grade. We would also have an outdoor learning space for the students.
 - o We're looking into fencing options, compost bins, getting access to the water source from Henry Fine Park, and working with the school board (primarily Chris Martin) to gain their support. It has been well received so far.
 - o If this sounds like something the Parent Council would like to support, we would like to get a letter of support if possible.
 - o Have you talked to the Pinecrest Neighborhood Association? Yes, we've received a lot of support from the Pinecrest Neighborhood Association. We have a sub-committee within this committee dedicated to the planning for this garden.
 - o Is this a good time to talk about any funding that we can assist with? We would appreciate any funding support that the council can provide. Our biggest expense right now is the fencing. We've received quotes of around \$1,500 - \$3,000.
 - o We should do 2 different motions- one for approving of a support letter and later on, we can do a future motion for assisting with funding once we know if it's been approved.
 - o I make a motion that we write a letter of support for the community school garden. Second. All in favor. All. Motion passed.
- End of the year dedication for the 5th grade:
 - o We are looking at doing something for the students in person and zooming in the students online. We would like to do some type of ceremony and record it the last week of school. We're not sure what we can or if we're allowed to do, so nothing is finalized or publicized yet. We're happy to take any ideas/suggestions.

Open Discussion:

- Mileage club:
 - o Mrs. Crawford purchased the necklace for the students to put their feet on and milestone medals.
 - o We approved the purchase of these items last meeting, the cost was just under \$100.