

NORTHRIDGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 17, 2000

The board met at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Bob Steffes. All board members were present including Maureen Dockstader, Neal Loes, Brian Sorenson, Bob, and Carol Payne.

Scott Logan, Ames Traffic Engineer, also attended the meeting. He discussed the traffic studies that were done on Aspen, Valley View, and Evergreen streets in Northridge. He said that there were approximately 1000 vehicles per day on Aspen. That is enough traffic to warrant stop signs on the intersection of Valley View and Evergreen with Aspen. The traffic speeds average 24.9 MPH with 85% of the motorists driving 31.4 MPH. The board is still concerned about the speed of the traffic on Aspen and asked for ways to slow it down. There is not enough traffic to warrant a 4-way stop at the intersections. Mr. Logan mentioned the following suggestions as possible ways to slow traffic:

- Paint a parking lane which makes the street seem narrower. This method has proved successful in slowing traffic on Ninth Street in Ames.
- “Residential Area” signs have been added to the speed limit signs.
- Add red flags to speed limit signs for a month. The board requested that be done during the first month of school.
- Put another article in the Northridge newsletter addressing traffic concerns. Mention that the board is working with the city to solve the problems.
- Add a speed limit sign about half-way down Bayberry.
- Contact the Ames Police Department and request periodic monitoring of traffic speeds.
- Put a speed limit sign on Valley View.
- “No Parking” signs will be placed on one side of Valley View, Honeysuckle, Almond Road, Magnolia Circle, and Arrowwood Circle.

Scott does not recommend “Children Playing” signs because that can be more dangerous by giving children and their parents a false sense of security.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer Brian Sorenson noted that there are now taxes being paid on 414 lots in Northridge. The Riverbank Fund is now at Commercial Federal and will be included on the monthly treasurer’s report. He opened new certificates of deposit at Firststar Bank. See the treasurer’s report following the minutes.

Neal wrote a letter to Don Newbrough, the developers’ attorney, on July 5, 2000, saying the board will accept the 18th addition from them with the contingency that the ponds be cleaned of debris and that they meet the specified sizes and depths. A letter was sent to Karen Edwards and Tom Cruise about dog run concerns.

A letter was received from Bob Buck in response to an inquiry that Neal made about the intent of the developers when the covenants were written. The board had questions about what was meant by the word “barrier” and the screening of dog runs. Bob Buck said, on behalf of the developers, that the intent is to maintain an open feeling along the green spaces and walkways in Northridge.

To do this, the last ten feet of a lot meeting a green space or sidewalk should not be enclosed by a barrier. A barrier could be defined as fences, hedges, trees, and a thick garden. A dog run should not be offensive to the neighbors. The view of the dog run should be softened, but does not need to be complete.

The board decided to put an article in the next newsletter reminding residents of the barrier covenants. Letters will also be sent to residents who have planted trees close to the path in which roots will damage the paths. The board agreed that it would be good to develop a standard letter that can be sent addressing landscaping concerns. Neal will draft a letter, and it will be attached to the letter from Bob Buck.

A complaint has been received from a neighbor to an empty lot on Tupelo Circle. The neighbor has tried personal contact of the owner as well as the city of Ames sanitary department about debris and weeds on the lot. The covenants do address this. If a lot is offensive or noxious, it needs to be cleaned. Neal will write the owners of the lot asking them to clean it.

Although Carol Bousquet was not happy with the quality of work being done with printing at Prints, she has decided to continue with them for a trial period. She talked to the manager who has offered a discount on the next printing of the newsletter order and a pledge that quality will be improved.

A home at 3001 Almond has had a boat sitting in the driveway for three weeks. Neighbors have complained. Carol Payne volunteered to write the owners' a letter. (Bob Steffes reported to Carol after the meeting that the boat has been removed from the driveway. No letter will be sent at this time).

A fence application from Steve and Cindy Gunderson was approved. Brian Menneke's application for a fence was also approved.

Maureen called the Ames Schools busing company and talked with Casey about the pick-up stops in Northridge. The company moved the pick-up/drop-off points away from corners because of safety concerns. Maureen will request that the bus stops be moved from the pathways to the nearest driveway in the winter when there is snow. The pathways are not cleared of snow. She will also request the stops be on the same side of the street as the sidewalks.

Items for the upcoming newsletter were suggested:

- Roaming cats
- Reminder for residents to water new plantings in greens spaces next to their lot
- Information regarding school bus stops, new stop signs, and red flags on the stop signs
- Planting awareness, reminder of barrier covenants regarding planting, fences, etc.
- New neighbor update
- Green space grant information
- Thanks to residents who have been conscientiously "Good Neighbors" by respecting covenants
- Information about the annual meeting in January

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M. The next meeting will be at Carol Payne's on August 17, at 7:00 P.M.

Carol Payne, Secretary