

## NORTHRIDGE HOMEOWNERS' BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 17, 2000

### **Revised**

The board meeting was called to order at the home of Carol Payne at 7:00 P.M., August 17, 2000. Board members present were Maureen Dockstader, Neal Loes, Bob Steffes, and Carol Payne. Treasurer Brian Sorenson was not able to attend and sent the treasurer's report with another board member.

The letter that Neal drafted to address improper barriers close to green spaces was discussed and approved.

A fence application from Linda and Dan Armstrong was approved.

A complaint about mud on the walkway between Bayberry and Valley View was received by the board. The developers have said that the walk will be repaired and cleaned. The board will recommend to the developers via Ken Janssen that the pathway also be raised.

Two ponds have been dredged. What is commonly known as Cattail Pond is now approximately seven feet and four inches deep. Based on the equipment operator's estimates, it cost approximately \$3410 for the equipment to dredge the pond using 11 hours of labor. Two thousand dollars will need to be spent to repair path damage as a result of the pond silt being excavated. The board will recommend to the green space committee that the ponds be formally named.

Safety concerns near and around the ponds were discussed. Bob noted that children are riding bikes downhill toward Cattail Pond. The pathway between Lots 104 and 105 jogs and so the bikers are cutting across the corner of a green space. If the bikers missed the corner, they could easily be thrown into the pond in Bob's opinion. The board agreed to recommend to the green space committee that plantings be placed to serve as a safety net at the corner by the pond.

Dr. and Mrs. Steenblock whose lot is near one of the ponds have suggested that pumps be put in each pond. Mrs. Steenblock obtained estimates of \$5,000-\$6,000 per pond for installation. The board feels that the residents of Northridge would need to approve such a large expenditure.

The annual meeting would be a good forum to discuss the pumps. A resident has complained about geese landing on the ponds because they leave droppings. It was suggested that plantings be put around the ponds to discourage the geese from using them.

Bob Steffes and Jim Koester walked all of the paths in Northridge to ascertain the approximate amount of pathways that can be subtracted from the green spaces when applying for maintenance contracts. The impetus for the survey was an unexpected bill from Pennington Lawn Service for over \$1700.

Bob and Jim found the paths to be 4.4 miles long. There are 78 segments that total 16,674 square yards. It would cost approximately \$350,000 to replace all of the pathways at today's price of \$15 per linear foot. It was agreed that this information should be shared with the Association at the annual meeting.

Suggestions for the upcoming Northridge newsletter included bringing attention to problems with golf balls breaking windows and being found in yards and ways to permanently identify lot pins on the green spaces for future reference. The next newsletter will be published around September 1.

Maureen has spoken to Casey Speake, Operation Manager for Central Iowa Transit, which operates the Ames school buses. Several residents have had concerns about using the pathways for bus stops because they are not cleared of snow in the winter. Casey told Maureen that the company sees no problem with having the stops on the pathways even when they are not adjacent to a sidewalk. The company is using distance guidelines and are in compliance with those. An article will be included in the next newsletter about the school bus stops. Maureen will ask the bus company to send a letter to parents about possible changes when snow causes problems with the present stops.

As a reminder Neal will send another letter to those households who have received letters from the developers about maintaining empty lots.

Continuing concerns about the lack of screening of a dog run were brought up. Although several letters have been sent to the owners, Thomas Cruse and Karen Edwards, no screening has been erected. If nothing has been erected by next month, the board will have our attorney formally handle the problem.

Dates for the annual meeting were discussed. Proposed dates are January 16 or 18. Carol Payne will look into reserving the Ames Public Library as well as asking Brian Sorenson which date will work best for him.

The treasurer's report follows the minutes.

The next meeting will be held September 19. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Carol Payne  
Secretary