

Noble Area Business Association (NABA)

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 2nd, 2026

Location: Noble Road Library

1. Call to Order

President Anntwinette Muhammad called the meeting to order at 12:12pm

2. Roll Call

Present:

- Anntwinette Muhammad, President
- Delisia Robinson, Member
- Jacquelyn Remmer, Treasurer
- Codi Pilkington, Librarian
- Julie Kaufman, City of Cleveland Heights
- Brian Anderson, City of Cleveland Heights
- Myra Orenstein, Executive Director

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were presented for review. No corrections were offered.

Motion: Jacquelyn Remmer moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

Second: Motion was seconded by Delisia Robinson

Action: Motion carried and the previous meeting minutes were approved.

4. Treasurer's/Financial Report

Executive Director Myra Orenstein presented the financial report. She explained that the balance sheet continues to reflect approximately \$30,000 due to the structure of the seed funding received from the City. An additional financial breakout was provided to clarify the allocation and expenditure of funds.

The organization remains within its approved budget. The Profit and Loss statement was also reviewed, including expenditures to date and funds received from the County.

No questions were raised regarding the financial reports.

Motion: Delisia Robinson moved to approve the financial report.

Second: Motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Remmer

Action: Motion carried and the financial report was approved.

5. Old Business

A. Back-to-School School Supply Program

Jacquelyn Remmer reported that NABA has collected a substantial quantity of school supplies. The supplies are currently being stored at Anntwinette Muhammad's business.

The planned delivery to the schools was postponed due to the cancellation of school caused by the lack of air conditioning in the elementary schools. Delivery is expected to take place the following Tuesday morning, with the specific time to be confirmed.

The supplies will be delivered to Noble Elementary School and Oxford Elementary School. NABA will provide a letter with the donations and will use newly obtained name badges to identify NABA representatives.

Jacquelyn Remmer and Myra Orenstein previously met with the Principal of Noble Elementary School. The meeting was positive, and the principal expressed interest in working with NABA and supporting efforts to strengthen the Noble neighborhood.

B. Potential School Board Collaboration

Anntwinette Muhammad reported that a local school board member has expressed interest in becoming involved with NABA's community initiatives, including future donations and opportunities to better understand how NABA can support area schools.

Myra Orenstein welcomed the potential collaboration and invited the school board member to contact her.

C. CDBG Grant Application

Myra Orenstein reported that NABA has advanced to the second round of discussions regarding its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. NABA requested \$50,000 in funding.

Anntwinette, Alicia Vanier, and Myra Orenstein are expected to participate in the upcoming Zoom meeting to answer questions regarding the application.

D. Merchant Meeting

NABA is working to schedule a meeting with merchants in the district. The organization is attempting to secure Archwell as the meeting location. If that location is unavailable, the Recreation Center will be contacted regarding room availability.

The anticipated meeting time is approximately 6:00 p.m., preferably on a Monday or Tuesday.

Once a date and location are confirmed, NABA will notify district merchants. Board members will also be encouraged to personally reach out to businesses within their respective areas to encourage participation.

E. NABA Identification and Promotional Materials

NABA identification badges have been obtained and will be distributed to members.

The possibility of ordering NABA T-shirts bearing the organization's logo was discussed. Myra will coordinate obtaining sizes and determining the next steps for ordering shirts.

6. New Business

A. Banking Relationship

Myra Orenstein reported that PNC Bank was unable to approve the participation of its representative, Natika Anderson, in NABA meetings and community initiatives. As a result, NABA is in the process of moving its banking relationship from PNC Bank to Chase.

Myra has established an account with Chase and reported that Chase representatives have expressed significant interest in working with NABA. A meeting is planned with Chase representatives involved in community engagement.

Potential areas of collaboration include:

- Business financing seminars
- Business best practices
- Support for NABA's business incubator concept
- Potential involvement in the proposed Shop and Save program

Myra Orenstein will handle the transition from PNC to Chase.

B. Business Directory

Myra Orenstein reported that NABA's business directories are currently being finalized for printing. Due to several recent business ownership and location changes, the directory has undergone multiple updates.

The NABA website has also been updated to reflect the businesses included in the directory.

Each merchant will receive approximately 100 business-card-sized directories to distribute to customers and visitors. Additional copies will be distributed to community locations, including the library and other high-traffic businesses.

Distribution is expected to begin within approximately two weeks.

C. Snow Plowing and Winter Maintenance

Myra Orenstein reported that NABA's snow-plowing contract has been signed and is expected to cost slightly less than the previous year's contract.

The contract covers the designated NABA district but does not include certain adjacent side streets or private parking areas. Individual businesses seeking additional coverage will be responsible for any additional cost.

The snow-plowing contractor will prioritize the Taylor Road area due to the needs of the Hebrew Academy and will then service the NABA area.

The Board discussed concerns regarding snow being pushed back onto sidewalks after municipal plowing. Myra Orenstein will contact the City's Public Works Department to determine whether municipal plowing schedules can be coordinated with NABA's snow-clearing schedule.

The Board also discussed obtaining rock salt for merchants. Various options were considered, including:

- Accessing a City-provided salt bin;
- Purchasing rock salt through Heights Hardware at a discounted rate; and
- Having a central delivery location and distributing bags directly to merchants.

Concerns were raised regarding a publicly accessible salt bin being used by individuals outside the district and the possibility that supplies could be depleted before merchants have access to them.

The possibility of using Archwell as a temporary central distribution point was discussed. If rock salt is delivered to a central location, Board members proposed distributing it directly to merchants on the same day to avoid storage and security concerns.

Action Items: Myra Orenstein will:

1. Contact Archwell regarding the possibility of using the property as a distribution location.
2. Contact Heights Hardware regarding pricing for rock salt.
3. Continue exploring the possibility of coordinating with the City regarding access to rock salt.

A final decision regarding the distribution method will be made after additional information is obtained.

7. Community Events

A. Halloween Event

The Board discussed the possibility of organizing a Halloween event for children in the Noble neighborhood, potentially involving participating merchants and/or a trunk-or-treat event.

Several logistical considerations were discussed, including school dismissal times, pedestrian safety, merchant participation, available locations, and the limited amount of time remaining to organize the event.

After discussion, the Board agreed that there was insufficient time to adequately organize the event for the current year.

Decision: The Halloween event proposal was tabled until next year.

B. Thanksgiving Community Initiative

The Board discussed organizing a Thanksgiving community assistance initiative. Ideas included providing grocery gift cards, organizing a food drive, and partnering with existing community organizations.

The Board agreed that refrigeration-dependent food donations should be avoided if possible.

The possibility of collaborating with the Cleveland Heights Library was discussed. The library currently operates a donation-based food resource, including a refrigerator and dry pantry, and has existing relationships with local schools and community organizations.

The Board expressed strong interest in collaborating with the library rather than creating a separate program.

The library representative indicated that the library would be open to collaborating with NABA on a Thanksgiving initiative and potentially its fall/harvest programming.

Decision: NABA will pursue a collaborative Thanksgiving/community assistance campaign with the library.

Board members will develop ideas for the initiative and provide recommendations by the agreed-upon deadline so that the proposal can be presented at the upcoming merchant meeting.

The Board also discussed the possibility of:

- Obtaining donations or matching contributions from merchants;
- Using gift cards for grocery purchases;
- Limiting distribution to a predetermined number of recipients; and
- Working with area schools to communicate the program to families.

C. Holiday/Toy Drive

The Board discussed the possibility of conducting a holiday toy drive or similar community initiative.

No final decision was made. The Board agreed to continue considering options and to discuss the initiative in conjunction with the Thanksgiving planning and merchant outreach.

8. Community Partnerships

The Board discussed opportunities to collaborate with local organizations that provide resources to area residents.

Delisia reported that her nonprofit, **PADS (Pride Among Daughters and Sisters)**, provides free sanitary pads, tampons, and hygiene products to girls and women in the community, including schools and shelters.

She also maintains a resource table with information about food pantries, SNAP, Salvation Army resources, and other community services.

The Board expressed interest in developing stronger partnerships among NABA, the library, PADS, schools, and other community organizations in order to better connect Noble residents with available resources.

9. Website and Community Calendar

Myra Orenstein reminded Board members that NABA maintains an events page on its website.

Board members and merchants are encouraged to submit information about:

- School events;
- Business events;
- Open houses;
- Community programs; and
- Other activities relevant to the Noble neighborhood.

Information may be submitted to Myra in Word format for posting on the website.

Anntwinette Muhammad will provide information regarding her organization's **Sixth Annual Donation Drive**, scheduled for October 24 in connection with Make a Difference Day.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Jacquelyn Remmer moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Motion was seconded by Delisia Robinson

Action: Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelyn Remmer
Treasurer