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Dear Arcadia Neighborhood residents:

I am writing to let you know that members of the Board of the Arcadia Neighborhood Association have talked with one another (by e-mail), and confirmed that we will not be doing an ice cream social this year. We arrived at a consensus that it is best to take a cautious approach, and not unnecessarily create an event where even one person is possibly infected with Covid-19.

We do this with the knowledge that what is being lost is actually quite valuable. One of the core principles of the Arcadia Neighborhood Association is that there is great value in neighbors getting together, getting to know one another, and talking about issues of common concern. I think this reality is reinforced when you compare face to face interaction with participating in social media. Social media has increased the amount of words and images we send at one another, yet somehow lacks the same emotional impact as spending time face to face in the actual presence of another person. Among other things, being actually present with another person increases empathy, and connectedness.

Turning to another matter, back in March of this year, we were poised to begin participation in a planning process intended to redraw the Arcadia neighborhood for purposes of the City Master Plan. Since entry of the first emergency Orders in Michigan we have not had further contact with City staff on that process, nor have we received any contact from City staff. It is my intent to again initiate moving forward with that process in the near future, with the intent of pursuing that process in a socially distanced manner.

Let's talk about our neighborhood. Since the institution of emergency orders in the State of Michigan in March, 2020, I feel as though the Arcadia neighborhood has really shone for its residents. Individual houses, where people are able to do things in their yards, and walk around the neighborhood in a socially distanced manner, have turned out to be a pretty good place to weather this pandemic. In our home, while the social and economic impacts of the pandemic have been challenging, our family has also enjoyed benefits from the world slowing down, and our family being able to be together. As I have watched people walking around the neighborhood, I have come to believe that some other people may have had a similar experience.

We are not through this difficult time. To the extent we see people in our neighborhood and our City having a tough time, I hope we individually and collectively consider reaching out to them.

You can expect that we will have an annual meeting (whether in person but distanced, or virtually) of some kind in October, where we will have our annual vote regarding Arcadia Neighborhood Association leadership and Board membership. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


Rex Brueggemann
President, ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

RB/mlc