

BRAG monthly March meeting

Minutes:

Follow-up of the February 22 Community Meeting; thanks to Lisa for organizing and implementing the highly successful meeting where 125 residents and business owners came to learn more about the GINI initiative that BRAG is now a part of and to become more involved in BRAG's projects and activities.

SPEA survey: Kendal, Beth, and Amy reported that more than 200 surveys have been completed. In addition, they have held several focus groups with businesses, churches, school leaders, and apartment owners. **They still need input from these apartments and neighborhoods:**

GINI updates: preparing to interview 100 business/education/community leaders. Interview training will be held on Monday, March 19 at 6 pm at Stanley. Please volunteer your time by contacting Lisa Angrick at lisa@binford71.org

Crime watch update/Police substation details: recent robbery at CVS at Shadeland/E75th; trying to get coordinated key to substation for all Metro officers; will be starting regular hours for residents/businesses to contact them; thanks for all the snacks and water, microwave and fridge. Much appreciated!

Topics now carries BRAG monthly news on the second Tuesday of every week. Since a lot of BRAG folks do not receive it on their doorsteps, we'll ask Diana for more Topics bins at businesses in the area.

Wednesday, March 21 at 6 pm at Stanley: Binford Farmers Market volunteer meeting. Please join us.

Wednesday, April 11 at 5:30 pm at Stanley: special BRAG meeting with presentations by Craig Middle School science students re their projects to improve the BRAG area.

Saturday, April 28th at 8 am: BRAG's spring cleaning and planting party along Binford Boulevard. Please join us to plant several new beds and pick up trash. Contact Lisa Angrick and Karen Kryah to volunteer. lisa@binford71.org

Wednesday, May 2nd at 6 pm: SPEA students will be presenting the results of their survey and focus groups to BRAG members. This meeting will be held instead of BRAG's usual May 11th meeting.

Saturday, June 2nd at 7:30 am: Grand opening of the Binford Farmers Market on the southwest corner of Binford and East 75th Street! Vendors and volunteers are most welcome to make this weekly community event a big success. Please contact Jane Lommel at jlommel@WorkforceAssociates.com for more information.

Discussion regarding Tax Increment Financing with Andy Fraiser and Bob Wilch. Andy and Bob described TIF to the audience. It involves designating an area that is blighted or underused and using anticipated future revenues to finance public infrastructure improvements. Ball State students will be available during the summer to research possible sites, called Redevelopment Areas, and the feasibility of their being TIF

candidates. BRAG is entitled to pursue TIF possibilities because it is a part of the GINI initiative.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the next steps would be the following:

- 1) for BRAG members to make their own lists of locations that might be considered;**
- 2) BRAG would talk to developers and land owners about their willingness to be considered for this public investment tool;**
- 3) BRAG will include in its interviews with 100 leaders a question about improvements that they would like to see within the BRAG area; and**
- 4) BRAG will develop its quality of life plan to demonstrate strong and consistent community support for a TIF in the area.**