

BRAG Meeting Agenda May 2, 2007

April 28th Planting Party wrap up:

One hundred ten people volunteered last Saturday morning to plant a new bed on the northwest corner of Binford/E65th, redo the bed on the southwest corner of Binford/E65th, and mulch and weed all the existing beds, mulch trees, and plant 500 feet along the Binford median. Many volunteers also picked up trash along Binford and spruced up Stan's Signs area. Thanks to Karen Kryah, Lisa Angrick, Kas Vargo, Joe Komenda, David Gorden, Larry Riggle and his pickup for their expertise and talents in transforming the Boulevard.

Plans for Fall Planting:

KIBI will be offering new grant opportunities in June for planting this Fall. Areas to be considered are the northeast corner of Binford/E65th that can use spruce trees and river birches plus clean-up to fix up that corner. There are also Neighborwood grants for BRAG to apply for to plant new perennial beds and daffodils along Binford and side streets.

The new bed at Stan's Signs, courtesy of an INPAWS grant, will be held on Sunday, May 20th at 2 pm. Volunteers are needed to plant 400+ plugs and spread leaf compost. Contact Jane to sign up.

Crime Watch:

Joe Komenda reported that April was relatively quiet in the BRAG area, including the area at Shadeland/E75th. He is attending the monthly IMPD meetings and will distribute a survey to each neighborhood president to get their views about projects and priorities for the northside police force.

Joe is also coordinating the August 7th National Night Out program where residents in neighborhoods gather in the evening to meet and share who they are and the continuing need for lighting around each house to ensure greater security for everyone in the neighborhood.

Peter Courtney reported that business crime is down in our area, too. We all hope that this good news continues throughout the rest of the year.

New business developments:

Larry reported that George's Restaurant is still on schedule to open toward the end of May. Great Clips, a nail salon, a Chinese buffet, Starbucks, and Shadeland Flower Shop will also move to the southeast corner of Binford/E71st. Donna Carr is still optimistic re plans for the northwest corner of Binford/E71st Street.

Treasurers report:

Kas Vargo reported that BRAG has \$10,000 in its kitty to handle maintenance requirements this summer. We should start to work on fund raising to ensure that there are more funds available beyond the \$10,000 minimum that she likes to have in that account. The Farmers Market and GINI funds are healthy.

GINI update:

Lisa reported that more than half of the 100 interviews have been completed. She and Charlene are working on the community meeting on June 13th at McKenzie Career Center that will include the participation by those interviewed.

There will also be a community Visioning workshop on Saturday, June 23rd at Stanley 9 am – 1 pm. The Market will have handouts to invite customers to join in the workshop.

Binford Farmers Market update:

Here are the vendors to date: Homestead Growers: mushrooms; Field Farms: wide variety of produce; Wilson Farm Market: Indiana fresh fruits and veggies in season; Viking Lamb: lamb meat products; My Dad's Sweet Corn: sweet corn in season; Randy Richards: Indiana honey and pork products; Carroll Miller: milled grains and Indiana produce; Traders Point: yogurt and artisan cheeses; Porters: eggs and chicken products; Starbucks: coffee and breakfast items; Jim Phillips: strawberries, melons, cherries, peaches; George Taylor: baked goods and produce; Karin Glass: custom labeled soaps and lotions; window herb gardens; Knudsons: wide variety of Indiana home grown produce; Cheryl Lowery: local perennials; Mark Holeman: perennials

Occasional vendors include: Tuttle Orchards, Waterman Market, Pete's Peaches, Joseph DeCuis, etc.

Community booths include: Lawrence Fire Department, Lawrence Library, Central Indiana Bloodmobile, neighborhood associations, Girl Scouts, Indy Parks Nature Discovery trailer,

Entertainment: Little America instrumental, BodynMotion chair massage, Black Rose Caravan dancers, First Robotics, Lawrence Central Stage, etc.

The Grand opening will be held on Saturday, June 2nd at 7:30 to 11 am. Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell will be on hand. Jolene Ketzenberger, Food and Wine Editor of the Indianapolis Star, will be our featured guest.

Volunteers from neighborhood associations are still needed every Saturday for the smooth operation of the Market. It was suggested that neighborhood presidents be contacted to volunteer at a Saturday prior to their garage sales so that they can promote them at the Market. Please contact Jane or Lyn Anderson to sign up –

The Binford Farmers Market website will be operational by the end of this month. It will link to the BRAG website. Weekly emails will be sent to BRAG supporters about upcoming events and produce the following Saturday.

SPEA Survey/focus groups results presentation:

Kendall, Megan Siehl, and Beth Sturiano presented a powerful PowerPoint presentation about the results of their semester long study of BRAG residents and businesses to determine what they like best/worst about this area and how it can improve.

The results will be posted on the BRAG website once it is updated.

Discussion about how we take these results and move forward:

One of the major conclusions was the need to involve residents in apartment complexes so that they feel more a part of the BRAG community. One way would be to help them set up their own crime watch programs in their complexes. Joe Komenda will bring up this point at the IMPD Task

Force meeting and ask for materials from the police officers about how to start. Karin Glass mentioned that the City of Lawrence already has information that she will get for us.

The second conclusion was that BRAG meetings should start at 7 pm rather than 6 pm to allow more participants to attend our meetings.

The third conclusion was to give the BRAG survey to area businesses this coming Fall to get a better sense of their priorities and viewpoints. SPEA Professor Greg Lindsey gave us information about how to get on the SPEA calendar in August.

The final conclusion was to intensify the importance of the BRAG website for residents and businesses. They already count on emails about upcoming meetings. But emails will also be useful in letting them know about new business developments. BRAG is already working with a webmaster to improve the website. A more conscientious effort to have minutes of meetings on the BRAG website in a timely fashion was highly recommended for folks to learn the latest.