

BRAG Meeting Minutes July 11, 2007

- Update on the Great Indy Neighborhoods grant, visioning workshop, and action groups that are forming. Lisa Angrick reported that the June 23rd workshop was a success, with more than 100 BRAG residents and business folks participating.

Six working groups were formed to tackle these issues in the BRAG area: lack of pedestrian/bicycle access; lack of parks/green space; needing improved business development along Binford corridor; needing strategic planning to meet long term goals such as light rail and a Binford village center; improving relationships with Lawrence Township schools; improving crime watch/crime prevention capabilities. These groups will be working throughout the summer and fall with the goal of making recommendations that will be incorporated into the Quality of Life plan by December, 2007 and implementation in 2008 and 2009.

- Update on the Saturday morning Binford Farmers Market. The Market is now in its 5th week with an average of 550-650 folks every Saturday morning. We need more neighborhood associations participating as volunteers and ideas re entertainment every Saturday. Twenty vendors are canvassed every Saturday morning by Joe Komenda who reports that they are pleased thus far although they would like more signage along Binford.

BRAG may have to move its location from Stanley to another place near Binford because Stanley needs its parking lot on Saturdays. Jane will talk to Church of the Saviour re their parking lot as a possible new location.

- New business development on the northwest corner and the southeast corner of Binford and East 71st Street. The Kroger hearing will be held in July 10th if there is opposition to their plans. GACC will keep BRAG informed of any issues. The City is supporting BRAG to have a cut north of the northwest corner where the car wash is currently located into the new strip mall. This will take coordination with INDOT. Jane & Kas will be going to Kroger corporate headquarters in Castleton to see the latest floor plans for this store.

On the southeast corner, CVS, Fifth Third and Entenmann's continue to do well. George's restaurant is filling the parking lot. The new spa and nails salon have opened. Shadeland Flower Shop is due to open soon. PowerKidz is scheduled to open in the Fall. Brian Pahud reported to Larry that he will have all retail spaces in Avalon Crossing filled by early 2008.

- Beautification update: Tree Keeper volunteers are watering every Monday evening as the drought continues. More volunteers are needed, according to Michael Baldwin, TK coordinator.

KIBI trees and perennials grant applications along Binford have been submitted. We should know by late Fall about the status of these applications to replant the Binford median with native flowers and grasses.

BRAG continues to collaborate with Friends of Skiles Test Park re beautification along Fall Creek Parkway where the sewer construction is currently underway. BRAG will press for funding for plantings along the Parkway and entrance to I-465 in the spring 2008.

Jane is working with Ray Irvin, INDOT Greenways chair and Tom Crouch, City of Lawrence to get funding for a pedestrian/bicycle connection between the west entrance of Fort Harrison to the Fall Creek Trail at the south entrance of Skiles Test Nature Park.

- BRAG website and email newsletter update. Kas is chairing the effort to upgrade the BRAG website with the help of her son. She is also working with the website administrator who has changed firms.

The new police substation is getting donations of furniture and equipment to make it attractive to officers. BRAG members are reminded to give donations of snacks to Peter Courtney.

Joe Komenda reported that there are increased efforts to have neighborhoods become involved in the National Night Out on August 7th for neighbors to meet and greet one another and to have more lights on throughout their area.

Joe also noted the phone number for non-emergency calls: 327.3811. 911 is overloaded with calls that are not true emergencies. He also recommended that BRAG send a group to the 911 center downtown to see how it works.

- New business: Kelly Wood and Katie Brett, representing Mayor Peterson presented information about the benefits of the increase in income taxes that will allow more officers on the street and youth programs to cut crime.

Next BRAG meeting: Wednesday, August 15th at 7 pm; location TBA