

Kroger Annual Meeting update

New business development

Crime watch

Treasurer's report

CapMap evaluation by LISC

GINI working groups' update:

Karen Kryah reported that all the documents have been submitted by Schneider Engineering to MPO for consideration and approval at their next meeting on March 7th.

The BRAG Board unanimously approved having Karen Kryah as BRAG's contact person with Schneider as soon as this contract is accepted.

Meeting with Community update: Larry, Jane, and Lisa met with Pete Turner, Dan Hodgkins, and Tom Malesto at the Indiana Heart Hospital on Monday to review ways in which Community and BRAG could collaborate. They will review BRAG's desire for a Community liaison on the BRAG Board and in GINI working group meetings and get back to Lisa.

Since Barbara Summers was unable to attend this meeting, Lisa will contact her to talk about other ways of collaboration this year. BRAG is hoping that Community will continue, at the very least, to support our Farmers Market and maintenance of the bed and grass on the northeast corner of Binford and East 75th. We hope that Community will provide technical support

Meeting with Boy Scouts update:

Larry, Joe, and Jane met with Scott Clabaugh, CEO of Crossroads Boy Scouts that covers 1,000 troops across 25 counties in Central Indiana. The meeting was held at Camp Belzer that has generous, technology rich facilities that BRAG is welcome to use for major meetings. The main hall holds 300 chairs comfortably. There is a kitchen next to it, a large teaching deck outside that overlooks 200 beautiful acres.

Scott showed us the plans for the Headquarters that will be build during 2009-10 with a Grand Opening in June 2010. This \$6 million HQ is designed as their volunteer training center that will have major rooms and halls to serve many functions. The HQ is LEED designed in a prairie style architecture that covers the 8 acres east of Shadeland, north of Fall Creek Parkway, and south of Fall Creek Road. Landscaping includes native grasses and an attractive pond for canoeing practice plus plantings to attract butterflies and birds.

Crossroads and BRAG will jointly convene a meeting of Indy Parks, Friends of Skiles Test Nature Park, Greenways, Schneider, BRAG's pedestrian group, Community, East Avalon,

and Hillcrest Woods apartments to discuss how we can work together to complete safe crossings and trails for the Scouts and residents west to Skiles Test Nature Park and east to Fort Harrison. Details about this upcoming meeting will be forthcoming soon.

Zoning variance petition update:

George Kennedy reported that on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 2:30 P.M. the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals heard a petition brought by Northeast Foot and Ankle, Achilles Podiatry Group. The petitioner requested a zoning variance to allow for the construction of a 25ft. tall illuminated pole sign with a 140sq.ft. sign facing to be placed in the vicinity of east 71st Street and Shadeland Avenue. Its purpose is to attract the attention of northbound I-465 traffic however the sign could also be seen from Shadeland Ave. and by many residents of East Avalon Hills whose homes border Shadeland.

In opposition to this petition were representatives from the East Avalon Hills neighborhood, Castleton United Methodist Church and the Binford Redevelopment and Growth (BRAG) organization. Objections involved the proximity of the sign to the neighborhood and church and the likelihood of sign proliferation should the rezoning be permitted.

Not wishing to discourage business development, a compromise was offered by the remonstrators to allow for a redesigned sign to be placed on the west side of the building facing I-465, out of sight on the neighborhood residents and church but visible from I-465. Some tree pruning would also be permitted if necessary. The signage must conform to existing ordinance.

Sensing a decision by the Board of Appeals in favor of the remonstrators, the petitioner has agreed to submit drawings showing dimensions, type of illumination, color, and message design to be placed on the building. Such information is to be submitted to the board and the opposition representatives for approval no later than Tuesday, March 17, 2009. If approved, all parties could enjoy some degree of accomplishment while maintaining current zoning requirements.

BRAG thanks George Kennedy of East Avalon for spearheading this neighborhood effort and participation by residents at the hearing. Special thanks also go to Howard Nixon and Pastor Hammons for their eloquent remarks at the zoning meeting.

The meeting finished at 9:15 pm.