

March 11, 2009 Board Agenda

Members present: Kas Vargo, John Kryzston, Joe Komenda, Larry Riggle, Michael Baldwin, Jane Lommel

Board development materials. Kas reported that she and John have been busy investigating all the subjects that need to be included in a comprehensive Board manual. Many of these items BRAG already has but they need to be consolidated into one document to be used in fund raising and to orient new BRAG Board members.

Kas, John, Jane, Larry, and Lisa will work on specific subjects such as: BRAG's history, strategic framework, BRAG's generous supporters, whether in-kind or monetary donations, marketing and promotion plans, fund raising plan, etc. to present to the Board at its May meeting.

Kas reported that she has requested QuickBooks accounting software, valued at \$300, from LISC as a grant request. She has also requested the time and expertise of Charlene Hendrickson to help develop this Board manual and a computer that can be dedicated for only BRAG usage.

Update on the LISC CapMap evaluation. It appears that LISC has not responded to BRAG's request for more specificity about how to improve the functioning of the BRAG Board. The consensus of the Board was that our efforts to have a Board manual would suffice to erase any deficiencies in our evaluation.

Status of the Schneider engineering study. The final decision from Metropolitan Development to fund an engineering study for the BRAG area has been postponed to later March/early April.

Rob Reel, Prosecutor's Office. Rob Reel reported that there is a county wide effort to enlist the support of community groups to **have volunteers at bus stops every morning** to ensure that students are not accosted. The Board agreed with Rob that BRAG would like to become involved through its neighborhood associations. Rob will send a letter to Jane to be circulated to neighborhood presidents, inviting them to visit specific stops in their own areas.

April 8th plans for the BRAG public meeting. In connection with Rob Reel's comments, Kevin Tichenor, a minister on the northwest side of town, will talk to BRAG residents about how they have worked with the Prosecutor's Office to ensure students' safety. In addition, Mechelle Rusk, IMPD, will be our special guest, talking about crime watch issues. She will be given a check for \$500 from BRAG (50% from police substation funds and 50% from BRAG general funds) to help to help her plan the June 25th young people's program that IMPD sponsors in Broad Ripple Park. Another topic for discussion will be to invite participants to submit their 10 top questions for the Mayor to respond to on April 21st when he is in Lawrence Township.

Jane reported that there is a possible opportunity for BRAG to host a Governor's meeting to discuss the Kernan Shepard report that recommends consolidated government functions sometime in April. She'll send out details when they are available.

Jane reported that she is working on a **grant application for equipment to the Subaru Foundation**. Suggested items include the following: a movie projector and screen to show movies throughout the year inside and outdoors; a portable PA system for the Market and community events; laptop, printer, xerox machine for BRAG use; cones and signs for our Market. She invited Board members to submit their wish list to her by March 20th.

Jane, Larry, and Lisa met with **Community North** in late February to discuss having someone from Community on BRAG's Board and promise of continued support of our Farmers Market and maintenance on

Binford Boulevard. Jane and Lisa will try to get a response from Barbara Summers at Community about these subjects.

Joe reported that crime will continue to be a problem for all of us during this tough economy. He also reported that there is a **Walk with IMPD** in selected parts of the City and the **June 25th Broad Ripple Community Day** that IMPD north side district organizes for young people. As noted above, BRAG is contributing \$500 to help in this effort.

New business developments. Larry reported that plans for Donna Carr's center continue. Dunkin Donuts, Key Bank, AT&T, a computer store, dry cleaners, restaurant, plus the renovated 21st Amendment continue construction. These shops represent 70% occupancy.

Treasurers Report. Kas reported the following:

Checking account balance: \$63,511.74

Designated funds:

\$10,000 for the pedestrian access initiative

\$3,000 from LISC for an engineering study

\$2,000 from CIBA for trail development

\$5,000 from LISC for an engineering study

\$4,500 for Skiles Test Park improvements

\$2,083.06 for police substation improvements

\$10,368 for GINI Community Builder contract

\$18,963.96 United Water grant for Binford median planting on April 18th

\$350 Tribute with Trees planting

\$6,108.10 Oktoberfest proceeds

\$11,138.62 general BRAG funds

Recent deposits:

\$485 ISDA grant for Farmers Market marketing materials

BFM vendor fees

BRAG is sponsoring an INDOT public meeting on **Tuesday, March, 24th** at 7:00 pm at the Divine Savior Lutheran Church to update the neighborhood about the I-465/I-69 Interchange rebuild. Larry will send Jane the flyer so she can let BRAG supporters know about this important meeting. Lisa will send a special invitation to Barbara Summers.

Our March GINI meetings will take place as follows:

Thursday, March 19th at 5:30 pm at George's.

Tuesday, March 24th at 5:30 pm at Divine Savior Lutheran Church

Jane reported that Dr. Kevin Clary is moving ahead with installing **30 community garden beds at Crestview.** **BRAG volunteers are invited on Saturday, March 21st at 9 am** planting these beds. Peter pointed out that Mike McQuillen and Ginny Cain might like to be involved in this project since they have both expressed interest in having community gardens in Lawrence Township schools. Jane will make sure that Kevin and Tom Linkmeyer, Principal of Crestview, are aware of their interest.

Jane reported that we need volunteers at our indoor **Saturday Binford Farmers Markets** that will open on **April 4th** and continue on **April 11th** between 9 am and noon at Divine Savior Lutheran Church. The outdoors Farmers Market starts on **May 9th** at 8 am at Binford/East 62nd.

Please join us on **Saturday, April 18th** to mulch, plant trees, and clean up Binford Boulevard. Contact Karen Kryah for details at kjkryah@yahoo.com We'll meet at the Binford Starbucks at 9 am. Please bring gloves.

Mayor Ballard will be returning to the BRAG area on **Tuesday, April 21st** at 6 pm. Location TBA. Jane and Lisa will report details as they become available.

Mike reported on efforts to plant **new beds along Binford Boulevard that will cover up the Wynter Way fence**. The cost for the first phase will be \$3,100. Mike and Lisa will send BRAG Board members a memo, detailing how much of the cost will be covered by Wynter Way residents and how much they would like from BRAG to complete this project by May 9th.

Mike also noted that he is working with N3 Nautique to have them complete the second year of their landscaping plan along Binford. Mike will also develop a plan for BRAG to work with area businesses that have room for more trees through a special **BRAG Tree Fund**. This Fund would be set up with proceeds from Donna Carr whose renovations caused the destruction of 9 trees and countless perennials along Binford/East 71st during construction.

The Board also agreed to promote **Tribute with Trees** more actively at BRAG events since this is a very worthwhile program to honor folks with \$200 trees. It also raises funds that can be placed in the Tree Fund.

The meeting concluded at 8:35 pm at Divine Savior Lutheran Church. The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 13th at 7 pm at the Church.