

BRAG Board meeting Minutes
May 13, 2009

Present: Kas Vargo, Mike Baldwin, Eileen Herr, Jane Lommel, Scott Motter, Joe Komenda, Larry Riggle, Blythe Potts, John Krzston

Guests: Steve Zuhlke, Owner of The TechStop next to the Mailing Station; Bryan Orander, head of Charitable Advisors

Business Development:

Scott reported via Donna Carr that the landscaping has been addressed; dead plants are being replaced; maintenance force is being educated about which areas he is responsible for around the Kroger/Carr corner.

Donna Carr's shopping center will have work completed by June 1. Key Bank is due to move in mid-summer. Dunkin Donuts is being replaced by Subway.

Marathon is under new management following the death of the former Manager. No one is sure about its future status.

Scott introduced Steve Zuhlke and his new business in the Carr shopping center. Scott has many years of computer repair experience and looks forward to a long and happy relationship with BRAG residents and business folks.

There is a new staffing business that will occupy the former Flagstar Bank.

Larry reported that the Immediate Care Center within the Binford Medical complex has closed due to being the only tenant in the building although promised that more tenants would be included. He hopes to talk to Ken Schmidt about plans to add more tenants.

Colin Martin has been replaced by Ryan Clark as the new manager at Hawthorn Plaza. **** Kas will contact Ryan to ensure that BRAG continues to enjoy a zero dollar lease to run our Farmers Market in their parking lot.**

Crime Watch:

Joe has invited Commander Holt to be our guest speaker at our next BRAG meeting on July 8th. He has tentatively agreed to join us.

Unfortunately, the spate of vandalism and robberies in our area continues. Everyone is urged to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police and their neighborhood crime watch coordinator.

Jane reported that McGruff and the IMPD crime watch team plus a police car have been invited to our Binford Farmers Market. The tentative date is June 27th.

Jane also invited a Board member to form a Court Keepers group to attend court hearings/jury trials in the future. The next scheduled need for Court Keepers is June 9th for Wesley Daniels jury trial.

Binford Farmers Market update:

The Grand Opening was held on May 9th with 39 vendors in attendance. Unfortunately, the crowd was light due to gusty weather.

The Market needs volunteers to help Jane and Becky. Jane will contact neighborhood presidents to ask them to invite volunteers to join us.

Jane is working on a Sunday, July 19th fund raiser at DSL Church to raise funds for our Market. Thom England, head of the Ivy Tech Culinary Institute, will provide a menu and students to prepare a gourmet feast with the help of donations from our vendors. Details forthcoming.

Pedestrian/Complete Streets:

Jane reported that she, Karen, and Kate Weese had a lunch meeting with Ehren Bingamon, head of CIRT on May 12th to learn who are the important players around Central Indiana to interview/collaborate with/include as stakeholders in the Schneider Engineering study. Ehren will be starting the environmental impact study of the Nickel Plate in June and is still optimistic about getting stimulus funds in 2010 to begin construction of the light rail line with a stop at Binford/East 71st.

Kate Weese was interviewed on Fox 59 recently to describe the new study that the MPO has commissioned through Schneider. The project team will have its first meeting on May 14th to outline dates for public participation and interviews that need to be conducted.

Treasurers Report:

Kas reported the following:

Checking account balance: \$56,428

\$13763.86 general BRAG funds

Designated funds:

\$10,000 for the pedestrian access initiative

\$4,500 for Skiles Test Park improvements

\$1833 for police substation improvements

\$5989.02 GINI Community Builder contract

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

\$270 Tribute with Trees planting

\$5,608 Oktoberfest proceeds

Recent deposits:

\$2250 Fifth Third Bank

\$3800 BFM vendor fees

BRAG is sponsoring an INDOT public

BRAG Beautification projects this spring:

The community effort to mulch, weed, plant memorial trees, and replace others went very well on April 18th along Binford. After 3.5 years, the trees are starting to form a beautiful canopy along the berm that is very noticeable to everyone who travels along this busy corridor.

The Binford median with 15,000+ native grasses and wildflowers is now 2/3 planted. Close to 60 volunteers helped do the planting on April 18th and April 25th. Another big and final effort will take place in late May to complete the project that is funded by United Water.

The Skiles Test Nature Park stone work and planting will take place on May 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Volunteers are needed to transform the south entrance to make it far more attractive to visitors. Our deepest thanks to David Gorden for his design work and help in locating appropriate plant material.

Mike Baldwin sent a letter to Brian King at N3Boatworks to let him know that it's okay to combine Phases 2 and 3 into 2010 but no more delays will be allowed. Meanwhile, the new crabapples are looking great on the east side of his building that faces Binford.

The Wynter Way fence line project is being postponed until the Fall so that more local neighbors can contribute their time, money, and energy to this big improvement. BRAG will schedule a date in September/October to invite volunteers to improve this area that faces Binford.

BRAG Board Development:

Jane introduced Bryan Orlander of Charitable Advisors as facilitator for BRAG's Board development. Bryan's services are being provided through the generosity of the GINI grant to BRAG by LISC.

Bryan took us through the rationale for having Board members visit other neighborhood associations to learn from them about how they have taken their own groups through major transitions internally, strategic planning exercises, and new Board member education.

Our next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10th at 6 pm – 9:30 pm, dinner provided by Movable Feast. This timeframe will give everyone the opportunity to learn from one another about the results of interviews with neighborhood association leaders around Indianapolis.