

Minutes

BRAG Meeting , August 13, 2008 , 7-8:30
Hillcrest Country Club

The meeting was led by a welcome from Hillcrest Foundation President, Spence Vawter. He greeted BRAG members and guests to Hillcrest. Hillcrest had a reception for BRAG members starting at 6 pm which was very much appreciated by the BRAG members in attendance. Thanks to Hillcrest!

1) **Fundraiser** - Spence discussed the joint fundraiser that would be held October 11, 2008 and the benefits to both BRAG and Hillcrest. The fundraiser will be an Octoberfest. It is worth noting that 80% of Hillcrest members live in the BRAG neighborhood. The Octoberfest will have German food, a band, casino, silent auction, and more. The key to this fundraiser is selling tickets to anyone interested. Admission is \$25 per person which includes food and music.

Tickets were passed out to those willing to sell to a neighborhood. These were generally neighborhood presidents. If more tickets are needed they can be obtained from Jane Lommel or Robert Reynolds, the Hillcrest CC manager.

2) **City/County Councilman** – 3 city/county councilman were at the meeting – Ginny Cain (Dist 5), Kent Smith (at large), and Mike McQuillen (Dist 12). They made some comments on the fact they are very much involved now in reviewing the city budget. They answered questions about the state of MAC and its possible outsourcing. Finally they wanted to make all BRAG neighbors aware that if they need anything or to report a problem related to the city/county government to call them.

Ginny Cain mentioned interest by Council members in the light rail transportation proposal that CIRT is proposing. She welcomes BRAG's position on the subject to help educate Councilors on this subject.

3) **Prosecutor's Office** - Rob Reel from the prosecutor's office gave an update on the case of the robbery suspects caught in the BRAG area. Wesley Daniels has sentencing Friday Aug 15. Isaiah Stokes, the senior partner and person with an extensive criminal record, will have a trial at some later date. Rob urged BRAG residents to come to these proceedings because they have a strong impact on the Judge's final decision.

4) **Hawthorne Plaza** – Colin Martin from the company that owns Hawthorne Plaza came and gave an update on plans to improve Hawthorne Plaza. A new façade will be constructed at the plaza. A restaurant may also be going into the plaza. They are very pleased to have the Farmer's Market located at their shopping center. And plans are a foot for a recycling bin to be placed near the marquis sign.

5) **Farmer's Market** – Last Saturday there were 1,200 visitors to the market. Neighborhood volunteers are needed to help man the BRAG community information booth. Please help!!

6) **Kroger** – new opening date of January, 2009. This is due to the delayed construction start date because of the rain in May and June.

7) **Fall cleanup** -will be scheduled shortly with more information to come. Jane has submitted a grant application with KIBI for new perennial beds on all four corners at 62nd and Binford plus two corners at Binford and East 65th. In addition, BRAG has applied for a United Water grant to extend the native plantings along the Binford median.

8) **GINI Working Groups** – Since Lisa Angrick had to leave early, Janet Dankert took her place and talked about the efforts of BRAG to educate its community about the proposed light rail transportation plan that would use the Nickel Plate that runs through the BRAG area. Two public meetings were held in early June where 100+ BRAG residents heard Ehren Bingamon, Executive Director of CIRTA, and Mike Dearing, MPO, speak about the plan.

Janet, Larry Riggle, and Jane met with Ehren separately to learn more about the logistics of this proposal. A final decision by the IRTC will be made at the end of September that will include the proposed route and the recommended technology. Jane, Janet, and Larry are in the process of drafting a position paper for BRAG Board members to review. It will be presented at the BRAG meeting in September for discussion and a vote.

The next GINI working group committee meetings will be held on August 26 at 5:30 pm at Church of the Saviour. Special guests will be Brad Beaubien, Director of Urban Planning for Ball State, and Will Pritchard, Director of Finance and Real Estate for LISC Corporation.

The next BRAG monthly meeting will be held on September 10th at 7 pm. Location TBA.