

BRAG Board Meeting
August 19, 2009

Present: Larry Riggle, Kas Vargo, John Kryzston, Eileen Herr, Karen Kryah, Joe Komenda, Peter Courtney, Jane Lommel, Scott Motter, Mike Baldwin

The Mayor's Community Service Awards – a prestigious honor given by the Mayor's Office – will once again recognize Indianapolis citizens for their volunteer contributions and commitment to community service. The BRAG Board unanimously agreed to nominate Larry Riggle.

IBJ Enterprise Award – John Kryzston will work with Jane to nominate TenderCare, Andrea's Garden, Circle City Chiropractic, and Mark Holeman for an award.

Target grant – The Board agreed to nominate projects to help the Skiles Test Nature Park and the community garden at Crestview.

Subaru Foundation equipment grant – The Board suggested inviting Crestview to submit an application; BRAG would nominate items to help improve the Binford Farmers Market, such as tents, chairs, tables, banners, more red wagons, signs on Binford, etc.

Gregory and Appel Insurance grant – The Board recommended asking for items to be placed at the police substation.

Connecting Community Award - This award recognizes an institution, organization, or group of people that exemplify leadership, collaboration, and vision in their work to improve services, education, or cultural aspects of the quality of life of its neighborhood. The Board recommended nominating the entire BRAG Board for this award.

Building Local Economy Award, sponsored by Neighbor Power! This award recognizes an institution, organization, or group of people that exemplify leadership, collaboration, and vision in their work to improve business diversity or economic aspects of the quality of life of its neighborhood. The Board also recommended nominating the entire BRAG Board for this award.

Inspiring Places Award, sponsored by Neighbor Power! This award recognizes an institution, organization, or group of people that exemplify leadership, collaboration, and vision in their work to improve safety, housing, or beautification aspects of the quality of life of its neighborhood. The Board recommended nominating the entire BRAG Board for this award for its crime watch, beautification, Farmers Market, and Skiles Test Nature Park improvement efforts.

The Mayor's Neighborhood Award, sponsored by Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB). This award will recognize achievements of residents engaged as volunteers in beautification and/or environmental improvement projects. The Board recommended nominating the entire BRAG Board for this award for its continuous beautification and maintenance projects.

Board Development. The Board was asked to recommend candidates to fill new positions on the Board who have expertise in "Governance and Planning" as well as "Communications, Membership, and Fund Raising" to join these new committees.

City Councilor positions open in 2011. Jane and Larry reported that they will meet with Steve Talley to find out about these openings.

Lawrence Township School Board at-large position and District 2. Jane reported that these two positions will be open in 2010 for BRAG to consider nominating candidates from our area.

Scott Motter reported that efforts to design stickers for "Shop BRAG" are continuing at a fast pace. He has ordered 250 to be placed at the Mailing Station, Movable Feast, and Livrite for \$3/each. Residents and businesses are invited to purchase these stickers to brand our community and invite folks to eat/shop/buy locally. Proceeds will be used to fund a business directory that will be circulated widely. In addition, Scott, Peter, and John are working with Bill Brooks to design a quarterly tabloid that will feature BRAG activities, meetings, and plans plus advertising local businesses.

Scott also suggested that we hold a fall book donations drive to send books, etc. to troops to Afghanistan like we did last year. The Market and Mailing Station will be drop-off points for this new drive. Our goal will be 1,000 lbs.

It was agreed to make our BRAG public meeting in January one that focuses on education. Scott Schneider is helping us to get on Education Secretary Tony Bennett's calendar for sometime in late January/early February. The new Superintendent of Lawrence Schools, Dr. Raimondi, will be asked to come to this event. All principals in the BRAG area will be invited as well as the Supt of Washington Township Schools.

Mike Baldwin announced that he had purchased a new red wagon for our Market from the State Fair.

He also said that the Wynter Way fence line beautification project has been cancelled because of lack of support from neighbors to handle the maintenance after planting. The \$2,200 that had been budgeted will be used this Fall to plant trees and replace as many plants along Binford that we can afford.

Larry will give Mike the list of companies who maintain sections of Binford Boulevard so that Mike can meet with them to coordinate maintenance efforts this Fall and next spring.

Mike will prepare a statement about ANSI 300 standards for the BRAG Board to endorse and to take to business owners to invite their understanding and compliance with these environmental standards for planting and maintenance of perennials and trees.

Kas Vargo reported that BRAG was in good financial shape this year. Her only concern was that there is only \$1,876 left in the Market budget for the rest of the year to cover Becky Thomas, entertainment, and website maintenance.

It was agreed that BRAG will promote its presence on Facebook to capture a younger, foodie audience to attend our Market and to volunteer for BRAG projects and participate at BRAG meetings.

Joe Komenda reported that he had received an invitation to organize a Safe Growth training program this Fall. Unfortunately, the opportunity to write a grant was extremely short so he had to decline. The Board unanimously agreed with Joe that we needed more time to respond.

Larry reported that BP is planning to place a gas station on the northeast side of Binford and East 75th. He's working with the City Zoning Department to see what can be done to stop its implementation. He also plans to talk to the owner of this property to let him know how much opposition there already is to this proposed construction.

Larry also reported about his talk with Jeff Bennett, the Manager of Landmark Properties PA, who operated Hawthorn Plaza. They are pleased about the presence of our Market at that location and will continue to let us operate at that site. They are also planning to spend funds on improving the outside façade to make it more attractive to potential tenants.

Larry also reported that he and Jane and Kas met with Scott Schneider, our new State Senator, who has replaced Teresa Lubbers. Scott lives in the BRAG area and is very familiar with our projects and economic development. He will help us to secure Tony Bennett for our BRAG meeting in January.

John Kryzston reported that his business has changed names. With extensive renovations already completed, it will be known as Livrite.