

## **BRAG Meeting Minutes**

### **November 8, 2006**

1) Elaine Jones, Lawrence Library Librarian, spoke about the November programs at this branch. They included the theme of Curious George, with a bag and games and points for reading out loud to young people. The adult program includes various book clubs.

2) Sally Rosetti spoke about Little Friends pre-school program. This is a pre-school program that operates next to Stan's Signs in the BRAG area. It has been running for 8 years and needs more little ones to continue to operate. Sally was very interested in the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony at the new police substation and will contact Captain Mahone re visiting Little Friends and talking to pre-schoolers.

3) BRAG has been honored with a national Keep America Beautiful community improvement award that will be presented in Orlando at their national convention on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, no one from BRAG will be able to personally accept this award. Two staff people from KIBI will be asked to represent BRAG at the awards ceremony.

4) BRAG has also learned that it will be awarded a Mayors award at the November 9th KIBI Monumental Awards dinner. Lisa Angrick and Karen Kryah are especially honored for their outstanding contributions to BRAG's beautification efforts. They will accept the award on behalf of BRAG. David Gorden will also be honored for his outstanding design work on behalf of BRAG.

5) Peter Courtney reported on the details re the police substation ribbon cutting ceremony on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm at 5699 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street. The press have been invited. There is still need for more donations of furniture to supply the office space. Sheriff Anderson will make some remarks. Deputy Schuller will be on hand for a special round of applause. The Prosecutor's office will be represented. BRAG residents and businesses have been invited to welcome the patrol officers personally. Refreshments will be served by Movable Feast and Starbucks.

6) Meeting with Mali Mayors on November 20<sup>th</sup> downtown. Joe Komenda, Lisa Angrick, and Jane Lommel will visit with 5 Mayors at the City County building to share with them BRAG's short history and success in beautification and

community involvement efforts. This meeting has been arranged by Kelly Wood, BRAG's neighborhood liaison, and the Mayor's office.

7) Evaluating candidates for the GINI Community Coordinator position will take place on Wednesday, November 15. There are 5 finalists who will be interviewed that evening with a final decision to take place shortly thereafter. BRAG's first staff person will start on December 1 to implement the GINI grant with Board members for three years.

8) New developments at Binford/E71; what's happening re Whole Foods, CVS, the northwest corner. Larry Riggle reported that CVS and Fifth Third Bank are on target to open in January 2007. Entenmann's will be operational on November 17<sup>th</sup>. There still are major efforts by BRAG to entice Whole Foods to Binford/E71st Street. A banner was sent out on November 4<sup>th</sup> and follow-up letters have been sent by the Indy Partnership and BRAG's President to Whole Foods about the desirability of this location and the many positive developments along Binford Boulevard.

Larry also reported that the northwest corner was continuing its dialogue with Kroger. He and Jane agreed to send out a letter to Kroger company officials locally about BRAG and its desire to have this national grocery chain in the area.

9) Treasurers report/fund raising efforts. Kas Vargo reported that BRAG has \$12,700 in the bank. She and Crystal Alexander are building the database of business owners and tenants to prepare for a fund raising blitz in the first quarter of 2007. Eileen suggested our theme, "Help BRAG blossom this spring" to tie in with our next planting party on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

10) Jane Lommel reported that there will be a special avian flu preparedness workshop for churches presented by the Marion County Health Department on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at the IUPUI Conference Center. She invited all BRAG residents to make sure that their ministers/priests/rabbis knew about this special program.

11) Jane also reported about the upcoming tour of the long shuttered Fort Harrison Theater on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Theater patrons and repertory groups have been invited to tour the Theater and recommend its best potential use. BRAG wants this venue for a docudrama about the life and times of Tom Binford, after whom the Boulevard is named. BRAG also wants more cultural offerings on the northeast side of town for residents to enjoy, in addition to the richness of cultural activities downtown.

12) The next BRAG meeting will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 6 pm at Stanley Security.

**Happy and Safe Holidays, everyone!**