

12-17-08 BRAG Board Meeting Minutes

Members present—Joe, Jane, Larry, Blythe, Kas, Eileen, Karen, Mike, Ray, Lisa, and Leroy (visitor)

The meeting opened with hearty congratulations and applause for Joe Komenda, who won the coveted Mayor's Community Service award for his stellar work with Crime Watch. We are so lucky to have Joe living and working in the BRAG area!

BRAG's Annual Meeting will be held at 4:30 PM on January 28th at the new Kroger. There will be no sales, just an Open House event to allow the public to view the store and hear of BRAG's latest plans. Larry is working with the manager, Steve McGee, to plan the event. Larry and Jane will work on a press release and a brochure to announce the event.

Kroger will donate \$1000 for our April Beautification Day. Pre-emergent needs to go down at the end of the winter and estimated cost for mulch is \$400.00. We expect to receive another donation from United Water that is also to be used for beautification efforts.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization is entering into a sole source contract to conduct a study of multi-mobile options in the BRAG area including a light rail stop at 71st Street and Graham Road. (Final approval will come on January 15th or 22nd and this study will be announced at BRAG's Annual Meeting.) We had asked for \$30,000 for a sidewalk project and they came back with the response that they wanted us to be more ambitious in our dreaming! The Mayor is sold on having a light rail system up and running in Indy (hopefully by 2012) and anticipates the positive effects it will have on economic growth. The MPO loves the train stop/village center plan created in the Ball State study. We had hired the Schneider Company to do a visioning study on sidewalks (\$100,000). They will continue that study and the MPO will conduct a parallel study on land use, funding, public involvement, facility design, development of the triangle, etc. that BRAG does NOT have to pay for. This is a fabulous windfall for us!

George Kennedy worked with a friend/BRAG business owner and got us a six months free rental on a 10' x 10' storage unit at East 65th Street. Lisa is thrilled!!

Farmer's Market Update—We need more T-shirts, barricades and traffic cones for next season. We can have indoor space at the Divine Savior Lutheran Church for the first two Saturdays in April.....also next November and December. This season's market will run from May 9th through October 25th at the Hawthorn Plaza. We don't yet know if Becky is available/interested in being our coordinator next season. There was some discussion about increasing the rates for vendors. We need to do a cost analysis, but we certainly have the space to add more vendors next year. Dave Dargo, from the Abundant Life Church, asked if we would want to run their Farmer's Market on Thursday evenings, but the board felt like this would dilute our efforts in this area and thoroughly drain volunteer resources.

The Shadeland Avenue business meeting has been postponed until February 4, 2009.

Kas, Lisa and Larry met with Pastor Schultz at Divine Savior to tour the facility. The church is committed to opening its doors to BRAG events for one year free of charge. It's a lovely space and

seems like a win/win situation for all concerned. Future board meeting will be held there, including our next board meeting on January 14, 2009 at 7 PM. Enter the west entrance of the church to find the meeting room. There are 8 available classrooms and the sanctuary seats 250. Jane has dreams of creating a family oriented performing arts series at this venue and has been talking with musicians and Fifth Third Bank, who would be interested in supporting this. Subaru/ISUZU of America gives grants for equipment that might be purchased to show movies on the grounds in the summertime.

Skiles Test got their landscaping plan (for the parking lot area) approved by Indy Parks. They also received money to purchase a picnic table and a garbage can. Details still need to be determined for who is tilling/planting/watering but progress is being made and Ray will keep us informed.

No BRAG recycling bins after January 1, 2009 due to the drop in the economy.....price given for a ton of recycled materials dropped from \$90.00 to \$10.00, so it's no longer feasible for Republic to pick up.

The second Wednesdays in January, February, and March will be BRAG Board Meetings at 7 PM. Open Community Meetings throughout the year (not including our annual meeting on January 28th) will be the in April, July and October.

Beautification/Planting Day—April 18, 2009.

Next BRAG Board Meeting—January 14, 2009, at 7 PM at Divine Savior Lutheran Church.