

**Westside Improvement Association  
Board Meeting  
April 27, 2011  
Red Branch Bank Library**

**Present:** Berning, Dot; Buthod, Jayne; Cleek, Linda; Dillingham, John; Farmer, Paul; Hanka, Matt; Hollencamp, Gene; Lockard, Michael; Moers, Joyce; Nix, Ava; Padget, Fred; Runge, Marty; Runge, Mel; Singer, Linda; Stagg, Carolyn

**Excused Absence:** Anderson, Scott; Gerteisen, Wayne

**Call to Order:** President Fred Padget called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the February meeting were approved on a motion by Matt Hanka and a second by Michael Lockard.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul Farmer reported on balances as of the end of March. Dues have been coming in at a reasonable rate. The charge of \$63.75 for the *Courier* ad was paid from the Membership budget line. Approximately \$2,000 for the Adopt-a-Spot has been expended so far in April. There was discussion of whether or not we had voted to increase our scholarships to \$1,500 from \$1,000 each. Consensus was reached that we had discussed this, but hadn't voted because of the lack of a quorum. Farmer reminded us that he has offered to put up \$500 toward the increase each year. Padget offered to assist Farmer in researching the feasibility. Mike Lockard asked whether we had looked into any grants recently. He offered to investigate the possibilities. Burdette Park sent a letter thanking us for the scholarship donation for their summer daycamp.

**President's Report:** Fred Padget reported that a new *Courier* reporter, Arek Sarkissian II, called him to let him know that he will cover west side news if we help get it to him.

He gave a presentation on the WIA and land use and zoning issues to the west side AARP with about 50 in attendance.

**Unfinished Business: Shirley James Memorial**

- A very large rock on the USI-Burdette walking/biking path has been identified as the site for the memorial. The committee is looking at doing some simple landscaping and placing two teak benches, at about \$800 each. There will also be plaques or signs with information about Shirley. Using a gravestone-type marker may be one way of handling the story. There's an Eagle Scout candidate who will do much of the physical work.
- The May general meeting is likely to be held at Burdette Park.

**New Business:**

- none

**Committee Reports:**

- **Web site:** Linda Cleek reported that the annual hosting fee is approximately \$240. She welcomes any assistance in finding a less costly alternative. We discussed finding ways to get

more bang from our Facebook page. Hanka offered to become an additional administrator on the page.

- **Transportation:** Bill Harty was not present. Padgett reported that the repaving of the Expressway from County Line to Wabash will be starting soon. The University Parkway segment to Marx Road was opened this week.
- **Membership:** No report.
- **Newsletter:** Mel Runge solicited articles and reminded us that the deadline is the first Sunday of the month.
- **Land Use:** The beaver infestation in the lake behind Home Depot continues to be a problem. Lockard reported that Home Depot has not been responsive, and they are a major owner (70%) of the lake. Beavers are persistent as well as busy. Lockard checked with IDEM on the Carpentier Creek maintenance issues near Kohl's. Keep Evansville Beautiful and Lockard are working to have the plan submitted to IDEM be enforced.
- **West Sector:** Ava Nix reported there were 2088 dispatches responded to by the west sector police during the month of March. She has handouts on vacation
- **Scholarships:** Carolyn Stagg reported that there are at twelve applications from Mater Dei and four from Reitz. The committee met earlier today and selected two winners. Stagg will take care of getting the plaques from Tri-State Trophy. She suggested we move the awards back to March for 2012. Also serving on the committee were Marty Runge and Linda Singer.
- **UNOE:** Hanka reported the most recent meeting was quite useful, including presentations by Roberta Heiman, Karen Hardcastle, and Dr. Neil Troost on the issues of parks maintenance and cleanup. He recommends a public meeting solely dedicated to the issues of the parks. The Parks Department has become more responsive to the needs of the neighborhoods. Mel Runge pointed out that the city has been cutting parks' budget for years.
- **Parks:** no report
- **Adopt-a-Spot:** Dot Berning reported that people, trucks, and fire fighters came together to accomplish the tree planting. She said that lights would be very useful in keeping vandals away. Singer moved that we honor the volunteer firemen who assisted by inviting them to the annual meeting and recognizing them as appropriate, Joyce Moers seconded. The motion passed without opposition. Stagg suggested giving them "Good Neighbor" awards.
- **Media:** No report.

#### **Announcements:**

- Padgett distributed spreadsheets listing past officers, award winners, etc.
- Jayne Buthod reported that UNOE just graduated their second CERT class. The next class will be based in neighborhood association. They are also developing a three-hour program for personal emergency preparedness.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cleek, Secretary

Next Meeting: General Meeting, Thursday, May 19, Burdette Park