

**Westside Improvement Association  
Board Meeting  
January 26, 2011  
Red Branch Bank Library**

**Present:** Anderson, Scott; Berning, Dot; Buthod, Jayne; Cleek, Linda; Day, Don; Farmer, Paul; Foerster, Blake; Gerteisen, Wayne; Hanka, Matt; Harty, Bill; Hollencamp, Gene; Jeffers; Bill; Jeffers, Brenda; Moers, Joyce; Nix, Ava; Padget, Fred; Singer, Linda

**Excused Absence:** Lockard, Michael; Outlaw, DeAnna; Stagg, Carolyn

President Fred Padget called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. and asked the group to introduce themselves.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the October board meeting were approved on a motion from Matt Hanka and a second from Dot Berning.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul Farmer presented the report for December 2010, as well as summary information going back to 1998. He presented and explained a proposed association budget for 2011. Jayne Buthod moved that we accept the budget with the modifications that scholarships be budgeted at \$3,000 and Adopt-a-Spot at \$2,500. Joyce Moers seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

**Meeting Schedule:** General meetings will be held on Thursdays, March 17 and May 19; the membership picnic will be Saturday, September 17; the annual banquet will be Friday, November 18. Board meetings will be held in January, February, April, June, July, August, and October on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Red Bank Branch Library. Buthod moved approval of this schedule, Don Day seconded; the motion passed.

The March general meeting will feature the scholarship presentations and a program on taverns of the west side presented by Sara Corrigan.

**Nominating Committee Chair:** Joyce Moers has agreed to chair the nominating committee.

**President's Report:**

- Padget stated that we anticipate continuing all current programs. He is setting a goal of increasing our membership and visibility. He suggested we develop a speakers' list to present information about WIA to various organizations. Padget will be speaking to the west side Optimist group in March. Hanka suggested that Rotary and Rotoract would be good venues for WIA speakers.

- Padget also suggested that we look for more ways to collaborate with other organizations, particularly since we have 501(c)3 status. We can also look for opportunities to appear before various boards and commissions.
- It is critical that we have more active committees to do the work of the organization.
- We need more contributors to the newsletter.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- University Parkway Study – Mike Lockard has been talking with state legislators and officials about getting something done about the overpass at the entrance to USI sooner rather than later. INDOT has suggested that leveraging our political officials is the best way to move higher on the list. Buthod asked about the status of the University Parkway study that came out of the Majestic Place meetings. Padget reported that the county engineer has put together a scope of work that would cost more than \$100,000, and hasn't moved forward so far. Since the Area Plan Commission is working on a new comprehensive plan, we have an opportunity to participate in shaping the future of the area.
  - There is a group of west side residents talking about city-county government consolidation that will next meet on Saturday, January 29, 10 a.m., at the West Branch Public Library on Franklin Street.
  - Bill Jeffers pointed out that even if a study were completed, there is no guarantee that the recommendations be followed.
- Shirley James Memorial – There has been discussion of putting a memorial to Shirley on the USI-Burdette Bicycle path. Joyce Moers will chair; Jayne Buthod, Matt Hanka, and Scott Anderson volunteered to serve on the committee. Steve Craig, from Burdette, has agreed to serve as well. John McNaughton, USI art professor emeritus, may be a part of the design team.

**New Business:** Padget reminded the group that we are exempt from paying Indiana sales tax and that purchases of any size should be made using a sales tax exemption certificate.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Web site – Linda Cleek reported that general updating proceeds and calendars for 2011 are being posted.
- Newsletter – the first Sunday of each month is the newsletter deadline.
- UNOE – Carolyn Stagg is now the West Sector regional vice president.

- Adopt-a-Spot – Dot Berning reported a huge sink hole has developed. It appears that it may take quite a while to get the repair made. It was suggested that WIA present the safety aspect of the gaping hole to the city authorities. Buthod offered to attend the next parks meeting to bring up the issue. She encouraged new board members to get involved with the A-a-S. She drew our attention to the March seminar on creating a backyard wildlife habitat.
- Transportation – Bill Harty reported the money for the last section of the bicycle trail between USI and Burdette has been approved and construction should soon be underway.
- Parks – Brenda Jeffers volunteered to attend the Evansville Parks Department meetings beginning in May.
- Scholarship Committee – no report.
- West Sector Police Report – Ava Nix reported the January meeting was cancelled due to weather.
- Land Use – no zonings affecting the west side are on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Padgett pointed out that there are openings for chairs of several committees.

**Representatives:** Padgett encouraged anyone interested to volunteer to represent WIA to UNOE and to the Solid Waste District.

- Area Plan will be hearing a proposal for city and county zoning code changes having to do with landscape islands in parking facilities. The Smart Growth group worked for two years developing the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cleek, Secretary

**Next meeting: Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 4 p.m., Red Bank Branch Library**