

**Westside Improvement Association
Board Meeting
June 22, 2011
West Branch Library**

Present: Anderson, Scott; Berning, Dot; Buthod, Jayne; Cleek, Linda; Dillingham, John; Foerester, Blake; Gerteisen, Wayne; Hanka, Matt; Harty, Bill; Hollencamp, Gene; Jeffers, Bill; Jeffers, Brenda; Padget, Fred; Runge, Marty; Runge, Mel; Stagg, Carolyn; Wentzel, Sam

Excused Absence: Day, Don; Moers, Joyce

Call to Order: President Fred Padget called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the April meeting were approved on a motion by Matt Hanka and a second by Brenda Jeffers.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

President's Report: Padget reported

- Smart Growth: the group is working on a "complete streets" guide that will be presented to the MPO. The idea is that streets should be safe and usable for pedestrians and cyclists as well as for motorists. They are also working on a plan to keep waterways healthier that could go into the zoning codes. Bill Jeffers discussed the current rules on sidewalks in subdivisions and the procedures for getting waivers. He said that the County gives waivers on sidewalks in subdivisions in reaction to the lawsuit against the City for ADA-noncompliant sidewalks
- There has been a long series of complaints about the old Marine Hospital property. At a recent City Council meeting, a resident complained about the condition of the property.
- City-County reorganization will have a meeting to present the final proposal on June 30.
- UNOE is sponsoring personal disaster preparedness courses. They are three-hour sessions, no charge. The schedule will be posted on the web site, FaceBook, and in the newsletter.
- EPD is going to send a representative to our meetings beginning in July.
- The pedestrian bridge on the Greenway at Lamasco Park is now in place. It appears that the right-of-way issue next to Fleigeltaubs should be resolved soon, making it possible to complete the Greenway from Garvin Park to Sunset Park by the end of this year. The MPO web site has a map of the Greenway and other trails/paths system.
- United Way is sponsoring a seminar on accounting and audits for nonprofits on July 20. Mel Runge moved that WIA pay for Padget and Paul Farmer to attend, Bill Jeffers seconded, and the motion passed without opposition.

Unfinished Business: Shirley James Memorial

- Scott Anderson reported that Charlie Stocker, a WIA member, has offered to do design and donate materials for the site. Some Boy Scouts have already started working on the landscaping. A plan will go to Steve Craig, Burdette Park manager, to approve before presentation to the board. The Eagle Scout candidate who will do much of the physical work also has to take some responsibility for fundraising.

New Business:

- **National Night Out:** Tuesday, August 2, 6-9 p.m. at Garvin Park. WIA made its annual contribution of \$250, and will have a joint presence with the County Surveyor's Office with activities for children. Carolyn Stagg reported that the annual Breakfast in the Park will be at Akin Park this year, on Monday, August 1. Hilltop Association collects, cleans, and gives out stuffed animals and would appreciate donations.
- **UNOE Sparkplug Banquet** will be October 27 at the Casino Aztar facility. Padget asked the board to begin thinking about having one or more tables, and to consider who we might want to nominate for a Sparkplug Award. He asked for Board approval for a business card size ad. Bill Jeffers moved and Marty Runge seconded that we do so. The motion passed without opposition.
- **Fall Festival:** Padget will work with Farmer and DeAnna Outlaw to make sure plans are on track. Stagg suggested getting an exterior sign mentioning the scholarships, etc.
- Padget would like to hold a half-day retreat for members of the organization to discuss who we are and where we want to go. He asked the board members to consider when we might do it and what the components might be.

Committee Reports:

- **Web site:** No report.
- **Transportation:** Bill Harty reported that the repaving of the Expressway from County Line to Wabash is a mess and will continue to be for quite some time.
- **Membership:** Anderson reported he has gotten 100 business membership solicitations out and will have a report next month on how well it did.
- **Media:** Anderson reported that the photos, etc., from the scholarship presentation have been submitted to the *Courier*.
- **Newsletter:** Mel Runge solicited articles and reminded us that the deadline is the first Sunday of the month.
- **Land Use:** There was no Area Plan Commission meeting this month. At the Board of Zoning Appeals, there was supposed to be a request for a special use permit and a number of variances for a dentist office at 317 Hess Avenue. They did not, however, show up.
- **West Sector:** No report.
- **Scholarships:** No report.
- **UNOE:** Hanka reported Blaine Oliver spoke at the most recent meeting concerning land use. A useful map showing the kind of uses of the land in Vanderburgh County is available on the web.
- **Parks:** No report.
- **Adopt-a-Spot:** Dot Berning reported that weeds are becoming a real problem. She complemented Jayne Buthod on her work at the spot. On June 27, 7 p.m., there will be a weeding session. The rain date and/or alternate time is June 29 at 7 p.m. Gene Hollencamp has been investigating barriers that can be used to keep weeds away from the trees. He reported a rubbery mat that can be covered with mulch would be a good solution. Brenda Jeffers moved that we purchase mats for each of the three trees, as well as reimburse Mel Runge for expenses for soaker hoses. Wayne Gerteisen seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

Announcements:

- Brenda Jeffers reported that Ann Ennis at Keep Evansville Beautiful plans to submit a grant proposal for our Adopt-a-Spot.

- Brenda also reported that she has looked into having this year's banquet at West Haven but it is not available on our tentative date of Thursday, November 17. She's also checked with the Old Mill, and they do have the date available. We should be able to get the back room instead of the basement room. The consensus was that the Old Mill was a good choice. Fred asked that we begin thinking about awards that we want to present this year.
- There will be voting centers for the November election, most likely about 20-25 for the county. The Clerk's office is doing the prep work and the County Council and County Commission will make the final decisions. Each voting center would have about a dozen voting machines. Anyone can vote at any center. There will be two public hearings.
- Bill Jeffers stated that the most recent draft of the City/County reorganization proposal is greatly improved, but the merger of the police/sheriff's department has been excised. There would be a requirement to reconsider in the future, which sets up a great deal of uncertainty. Bill Jeffers has a copy of the proposal and will send it to Cleek for posting on the web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cleek, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 27, 4 p.m., Red Bank Branch Library