

Westside Improvement General Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2011, 6 p.m.
Old Mill Restaurant

Members Present: Anderson, Scott; Anderson, Renee; Berning, Dot; Berning, Terry; Buthod, Jayne; Cleek, Linda; Day, Don; Dillingham, John; Farmer, Janice; Farmer, Paul; Gordon, Evadean; Harty, Bill; Hollencamp, Jean; Huffman, Jack; Jeffers, Bill; Kolb, Bonnie; Ludwig, Judy; McKasson, Dick; McKasson, Joetta; Moers, Joyce; Nix, Ava; Padget, Fred; Peak, Martha Jo; Roedel, Trena; Runge, Marty; Runge, Mel; Selby, Karen; Selby, Steve; Short, Mike; Short, Sean; Singer, Linda; Stagg, Carolyn; Trout, Betty; Trout, Jack; Wentzel, Linda; Wentzel, Sam; Wolf, Urban;

Excused absence: Gerteisen, Wayne; Lockard Mike

Business Meeting: President Fred Padget called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the September and November general meetings were approved on a motion from Trena Roedel and a second from John Dillingham.

President's Report: Padget reported that he made a report to the Evansville Optimist Club recently and has a presentation scheduled for an AARP group in the near future. This is part of our initiative to increase our visibility and, ultimately, our membership and influence in the community.

Action Items: none

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Treasurer's Report: Paul Farmer presented the report.

Committee Reports:

- **Web Site:** Linda Cleek and Scott Anderson reported that three groups of his students are working on new ideas for the web site.
- **Newsletter - Mel Runge:** Submissions are always welcome. Mel requested that neighbor associations in the WIA service area are welcome to submit articles.
- **Transportation – Bill Harty** asked that those with concerns about road repair should get him the information.
- **Scholarships:** Carolyn Stagg reported we have four scholarship applications from Reitz and 12 from Mater Dei. She asked the counselors why there is such low interest and was told students are just not paying attention.
- **UNOE:** Stagg reported that a senior Social Work class from USI is working with UNOE to survey the neighborhood associations as to their needs and plans.

- Shirley James Memorial: Joyce Moers reported that a site on the USI-Burdette walking/biking trail has been selected. There is a large rock that will have a plaque installed, one or more benches will be added. There are already many trees on the site.
- UNOE – Farmer reported the next general meeting is Thursday, March 26, 6 p.m., at the Red Cross Center. Evie the trash-picking, book-writing dog will present the program.
- Membership: Anderson reported that about half the annual dues have been paid. He is working on other membership ideas.
- Media: Anderson reported that the committee is working on developing a campaign to build membership. Jayne Buthod, co-chair, added that we are looking toward how we can attract more younger members.
- Adopt-a-Spot: Dot Berning reported that Bill Jeffers got the sink hole repaired. Planting will begin as soon as the soil dries sufficiently. Volunteers for the Spot are always needed. The spot is at the corner of St. Joe and Maryland, and is on land once known as Rick-a-Dony (or Rick-a-dona) park. Brenda Jeffers created a sign-up sheet for anyone who wants to be on the volunteer call list.
- Land Use - Padget reported that chairman Mike Lockard is out of town. In his stead, Padget reported on a request for a zoning variance for a gravel parking lot on Jobes Lane. It is not considered to be a problem. Padget and Lockard have talked with the Mayor and MPO chief Tom Barnett about some methods of using smartphones to report infrastructure and other problems to city and county officials. WIA is working with USI officials to move the overpass at the Expressway and University Parkway higher on the INDOT list.
- Fall Festival – no report.

Announcements: Jayne Buthod reported that UNOE has disaster preparedness training available for neighborhood association.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m. with the program to follow.

Program: Sara Anne Corrigan, a free-lance writer and reporter for the *Evansville Courier and Press*, presented a program on the history of west side taverns. Following a moment of silence for the dearly departed Dogtown Tavern, she enlightened us on the origin of the term “fiddlers,” the oldest tavern in Vanderburgh County (the St. Joe Inn, 1820), and the joys of fried chicken at the Dutch Corner.

Next general meeting – May , location TBA.