

HMPA Neighborhood Monthly Meeting – February 2nd, 2009

President Welborn – called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm

HMPA Board Members present: Kellie Welborn, Becky Ruby, Jason Hummel, Elisabeth Krug, Bill Wolber, Rodney Weaver, Chris Bull, and Barbara Beeker. Absent – Jessica Harbison-Weaver

Recognition of Volunteers:

Joy of All Who Sorrow Church for hosting our meetings, etc.
The Progressive Dinner – Carole Veatch for organizing the event, and the hosts for the courses (Becky Ruby, Tiffany Berkson, Wayne and Morna Patrick, Doug and Cyndi Alte, and Footlite Musicals).

Number of Neighbors in Attendance Tonight: 14

Number of New Neighbors at Meeting: Zero

Health and Hospital –

Gary Caudill went over the houses in HMP that are on their list. Gave update on the following homes:

1826 N. Alabama St

1701 N. New Jersey St.

2043 N. Delaware St. – the fire house – Owner is up to his 3rd Notice

1802 N New Jersey St.

412 E. 17th St. – just now being set up for hearings – in about 45 to 60 days (house has been boarded up).

1723 N. Pennsylvania St. – property now has a fence around it; chain-link

1814 New Jersey St.

1635 N. Central

***1621, 1625, 1629 NJ – owner of 1621 is going to re-board the windows; it is up to the standards of H and H. 1625 owner had a contractor fix the window; board it up.

1629 recently sold; but not sure there is a problem; gave them to H and H.

***Fence at Greg's falling in to the alley (please have H and H check on).

Mayor's Liason:

Charles Ingram – February 24th – Night with the Mayor – 6:00pm – location to be determined downtown.

**Would like to Bring in Retired Police Officer Kinne– on Monday March 2nd at our next meeting

Barb - wanted to know if we could hold this till warmer weather and have it on the park (per se) on a weekend day, that way more people could get to the “workshop”.

Becky - played devil’s advocate, when is the Crime Watch person going to come and speak at a meeting, since this was promised. Not that we don’t want this, we just want to know when the Crime Watch person is going to come.

Kellie - will ask Police Officer Kinne to speak from 6:00 to 7:00 on Monday March 2nd

Jane Root – suggested inviting all of King Park to the above “Workshop” with Kinne
Kellie – the school speeding zone sign is a “Budget Issue” now according to Ingram. Not going to pull it this time, as it is a monetary issue.

Kellie – requested a four way stop at 17th and Alabama. Also, a one way sign at 18th and Pennsylvania streets has been requested to go to the WEST – traffic flow to go from Talbott to Penn – ONE WAY!

Jane Root – any movement to speed up the process (in regards to the abandoned properties) – are we moving along in getting them cleaned up – some have been on our list for 4 to 5 year’s now?

DPW – Ben Hunter:

Old friend to the neighborhood; is the Chariman of the Public Works Committee – controls the purse strings for public works. He has the city’s 2nd largest budget!

Infrastructure – we increased the budget to 18.5 million – we are the 12th largest city in the nation. Total identified needs is \$150 million; and increases monthly (in what needs to be done). He has been working on road resurfacing across the board. They have budgeted dollars for Alley’s; money has been put into place, putting down materials. School Speed Zone Flashers – for Herron – go to Jackie and Doris – Ben will talk to them (copy him on email) and we’ll get it done; work with DPW.

Lighting – there is a moratorium on lighting in the city – legal cease on putting something into place. Decision was made by the previous administration – because of dollars – you can pay IPL. As far as light polls, the Association could pay for the poles to be lighted and kept light.

Plowing procedures – DPW did a good job; according to Ben. This was the 6th largest snowfall in the city’s history – snow kept coming and coming. They instituted contractors to help out with the plowing of the streets. The city does not tax at the level of other snowier cities, so we don’t have that LARGE of a budget. We ordered new salt trucks that won’t be here till April; they will be retrofitted. The city sent out a letter today, to the neighborhood associations, that contractors could be paid for their snow removal work.

Kellie gave Mr. Ingram (who was still here), the names of Calvin Smith and Larry Logan (who helped out in HMP with the snow fall last week).

Becky was curious to how this would work, when the Super Bowl is here in 2012 and the what-if, this type of snowfall occurred in Feb 2012?

Janette Smith – what is the coordination of the plowed streets and the bus routes? Yes, according to Ben there is coordination – 19th and Pennsylvania was her concern.

Leaf Pick-Up – trash not being picked up – suspended service does happen; but we should contact our Councilor with concerns. If you are having trouble getting a trash can or recycler container – contact your Councilor to get action.

Sewer – good news/bad news – Good News: Belmont Connector - over flow tunnel will get some work – Spring of '09. CSO will be at Fall Creek and College – separate the storm water from the combined sewage over flow. Environmental changes, such as 'Rain Gardens' will help (planting trees, work on sediment rock, etc.) – we are under a Federal Decree; we must match it. So, our sewer rates should go down at some point.

Barb – has been to a meeting where this was discussed and she can give you pointers and links to more information.

Road Resurfacing – Ben gave us a list of those sidewalks and roads to be repaired – Kellie has the list of streets, sidewalks, etc. Janette – wanted to know if we have input – she compiled a list, it never got answered – better sidewalks have been replaced instead of worse off ones. Ben said we need to push Jackie and Doris (our councilors) to advocate for us and prioritize the sidewalks we need done in HMP. Ben said the least political committee is the DPW committee; he is happy to work with us and them. Ben suggested we get a list together, pictures, etc.

Ben – if something is requested – he will send them a list of Projects (the councilors).

Robin Bankhead – asked about sidewalks – if someone wants one put in, what is the procedure? Ben said they will sent out the requirements, certain types of concrete, etc.

IMPD – Officer Matt Jennings –

He brought BLUE cards for us and a flyer about Community Day on June 18th – do use volunteers – on the East Side; but in our district.

There will be a 'Walk with IMPD' – end of April or first of May – you can walk with the police officers; meet at Washington Park – will encompass most of our district. Begins at 5:00 pm; have specific dates at upcoming meeting. It's everyday – for a whole month!!

We want to get more specifics on the 'our complaints' – BLUE Cards – they are cross-reference with a specific division (narcotics, domestic abuse, traffic, etc).

Barb asked him about Court Watch; and how it seems that our statistics/incidents have gone down in recent month or so. Is that because we have gotten a couple of the criminals off the street? It takes a month and a half to get the stats.

Kellie wants the specific report given to HMP, that we used to get from all officers prior to Officer Jennings arrival. He states that he is here to give us the blue cards and answer questions – find out complaints. He is a neighborhood resource officer; only!

Caravelle Commons – let's talk to Janine Betsey and ask her to talk to them or a contact about encouraging renters, etc to call 911 or fill out the Blue Cards. Officer Jennings said maybe we could encourage them to start a neighborhood block club within the Commons.

Victoria Rutt – Safety & Crime

Some of the neighbors in HMP, have hired a private security guard Kevin Lauerman – introduced him to the neighbors that are here. For those neighbors, who are interested, he

and Dan (?) can walk and be around in the neighborhood – helping to do private patrols. For example, if neighbors might be gone for a week or weekend – or make suggestions on some home security – they can help with that (simple suggestions). Trying to stop folks who are out and about; we can get to know them or Kevin and his team can do that. Jane – wanted to know what we can do in our homes, to make it look like someone is “there in the room”. Any suggestions?

Victoria – said that if Kevin is out and about in HMP, he can have his scanners and radios set to our neighborhood and they can listen in on the calls.

What has Kevin noticed – Halfway house has the capability, homeless people, there could be possible activity around the abandoned homes, using the alleys – cross streets (east and west).

Jane wanted an update on Troy Groves – what is going on? Can we find out? We need to contact Eric Danneinmeier.

Victoria – we’d like to have a time when Kevin and/or Dan could come back and speak to a more attended HMP monthly meeting. Victoria wanted it mentioned in the minutes; so that we can get more to attend our meetings.

Membership – 60 members paid as of tonight

Beautification – April 25th – “Green Up” – from Russ Newton; and will include a clean up and an Eco Activities. Please contact Russ if you would like to join the committee – Russ_Newton@hotmail.com

Children and Family – calling for volunteers for the “Spring Green Up”.

**Herron High is looking for prom attire – we are donating to the HS; anytime between now and mid-April. Kids will choose from materials donated for their prom outfits.

Publicity – New Neighbor Party – on March 7th; probably be at Herron High School.

Foundation – February 18th – the Annual Meeting – we are having a Neighborhood Fair. Encouraging neighbors, come out and find out about HMP businesses, etc. Meeting is being held at Footlite – don’t have to be a member to come; but if you want to be a member it is \$25. Refreshments at 630 – Booths from 7 to 8:00.

Art Fair – letters going out

Newsletter – due tomorrow for March.

**HHS will start passing out March newsletter of Urban Times.

OLD Business –

Brad Beaubien – is passing out feedback and plan to other neighbors/neighborhoods!

HMP Website Update – meeting on Tuesday February 3rd.

HHS – looking for tutors; or mentors!

HHS – we worked with Republic, and now at Herron there is a recycling bin – bring glass and plastics!!! Russ wanted to know if they would have the appropriate signage. If HHS meets a particular weight, then they don't have to pay for it.

Footlite – is having auditions for “Miss Saigon” – and “High Society” starts in March – we have two for one offer.

New Business -

Have Herron look into shoveling their parking lot; snow removal not done!

Move to Adjourn moved and 2nd – Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Next Meeting Monday March 3rd.