

HMPA Neighborhood Monthly Meeting – April 6th, 2009

President Welborn – called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

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

Recognition of Volunteers:

Joy of All Who Sorrow Church for hosting our meetings.

Welcome to new HMP neighbors (a few present)

A Thank you to all who brought beverages/food to the New Neighbor Party

Thank you to the neighborhood nonprofits, businesses and schools

***Herron High School – side note – if recycling – NO GLASS products and they are still looking for Prom donations (dresses, tuxes, etc.)

Passed out the Neighborhood Information Guide for 2008-2009

Number of Neighbors in Attendance Tonight: 50

Number of New Neighbors at Meeting: a few hands went up

External Reports:

Health and Hospital – Gary

1826 N. Alabama St.

1701 N. New Jersey St. – property to mowed and taken care of as noted

2043 N. Delaware St. – still talking with investors – he has 30 days to find financing

1802 N. New Jersey St. – total fines so far \$5000

412 E. 17th St. – hearing recently –wishes to sell property – no desire to fix it up

1723 N. Penn St. – in hearings again this month – no safety issues, will let it sit and see if it can sell

1814 N. New Jersey St. – repairs to gutters and north side of house

1635 Central – building B – in court on April 7th – building c – complaint on open window

1605 N. Alabama St. – due for reinspection on the 8th – fence out into the alley; not taken care of yet.

**encouraged to attend the Vacant Building Repair hearings – judges usually take opinions and complaints from the neighbors.

**Grass – code 12 inches or above – 221-2150

**Problems at 17th and College – drug issues; being approached – concerned that drug trafficking is going on – there is a building at 17th and College – apartment building – possible prostitution.

Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison – Charles Ingram

Scotty Bryant – active in getting neighbors and businesses along 16th street more involved; he contacted the media to be here tonight!

**Updated on Mayor's night out:

rezoning of districts – nothing new to report
panhandle discussion – plan to disband panhandlers downtown – they are pushing up this way towards HMP. Ingram said they are working on getting some answers to this.

Update on the Top 25 list for Abandoned Properties – working through IMPD – top 25 homes that need to be addressed – drugs, prostitution, etc. List is on the cities web site – none of the top 25 are in HMP.

Update working on getting a school zone speeding sign – might get rumble strips per Ingram. This is for Herron High School on Penn St.

**Eric Danneinmeir wanted to know the update on the speeds allowed downtown – its' 25 closer to downtown and 35 through HMP – when is this going to be lowered in residential neighborhoods?

IMPD and or Public Safety – Major Becky Lake

Officer updated us on recent crimes; there was an assault at 15th and Penn and shootings at 17th and College and most recently at 20th and Ruckle Street.

**15th and Penn – homeless person in need of medication – probably should be at Central State; victim should not have directed anything directly to the person, should have called 911. Victim held homeless man down until IMPD got there.

**17th and College – drug deal gone bad – two gentleman shot were not citizens of Indianapolis; though they were victims of a shooting; they were still arrested because they are criminals.

**20th and Ruckle St. – fire arm being dislodged – Major Lake has no information on this at this time.

**Blue Tip Cards – are more for remaining anonymous – call 911 for a serious; immediate crime in progress.

**Displacing the pandhandlers – we have to walk a fine line with so that we don't violate any rights; IMPD can address them being in the streets – have to do it within reason, so the charges can stick.

**Redrawing the beats – run load and geographic areas – the areas are very LARGE – two and three officers for safety. The more runs there are, the more officers you need. As

the number of officers grows – new hires – small class right now – but in progress of getting two very large classes – probably be at least a year to get the districts redrawn.

**Please stay on the phone with 911 for as long as you can to get the correct information to the dispatch. They need to be fed the information; regardless of beats/districts.

**April 16th at 630 pm – next Task Force Meeting – guest speakers – all neighbors are encouraged to attend.

**Lt. Deal – 327-6282 – can remain anonymous when calling her.

**Tom Foreman – concerned about traffic not being monitored on Alabama Street where the park is – traffic patrols in the neighborhood in general – speeding on Delaware Street – and the speeding around Herron High on Penn St.

**Eric Jones – not happy that police officers are no longer coming to our meetings; Major Lake stated that they can come to our meetings (when there are big concerns).

**Troy Groves is in jail per an update from Kellie - per Eric he is scheduled for trial in August – maximum he is going to get is 2 ½ years.

**Crime Watch works – get together! Call in when you see someone suspicious! Call Annie Kern 327-6265 to organize a crime watch group.

Committee Reports:

Safety & Crime –

Victoria – update on patrols, arrests, court dates, pics of offenders were put shown on the slide board.

**Up to us to push the crime watch groups and initiatives going forward. Grant has been written for the GINI – Greater Indianapolis Neighborhood Initiative. 1.) all beats patrolled 24/7 – 2.) redistricting of the beats – so that we are not the furthest point from our call center.

**private patrols have been going throughout HMP – Kevin has been going to the halfway houses, etc – meeting people so he can keep an eye on “transients” in HMP.

Barb Beeker – recap from Neighborhood Task Force Meeting – with IMPD –

**there has been a decrease in burglary by 30%.

**we were the furthest west neighborhood represented at the meeting.

**KPADC comprehensive public safety committee – map pulled together – Kellie showed this to the meeting. Kellie showed us stats for violence, guns, drugs, prostitution, traffic speed, juvenile mischief, and other concerns.

**Crime watch blocks – you know your neighbors better than anyone else!!

**Keep our lights on in HMP – please report them to IPL – 261-8111.

**Porch lights – one CFL bulb – 24/7 – costs you only 4 cents a day

Membership – 80 paid members

Clean Up/Beautification – first Green Up scheduled for April 25th – Rain Barrel, Trash Pick Up, Standard Clean Up of HMP, and arts and crafts for kids, Tree Planting in the park and esplanade on New Jersey. Contest to span the summer, for who can keep HMP the cleanest through out the summer, prizes to be awarded during the fall clean up.

Children and Family – Easter Egg Hunt is this Saturday morning – breakfast provided, please RSVP as soon as possible so that we have enough for the kids. Kids activities at the Green Up.

Finance – \$

Foundation – Jeanne Pontious, new HMPF President – Janette Smith – new Vice President – hope to have flowers at the Green Up – buy these and plant these throughout HMP. Always looking for tenants at the Foundry Building.

Art Fair – The Art Fair – Saturday June 13th and Sunday June 14th. Will close streets on Friday the 12th at 8am. Continuing to do the recycle program again this year; going to be combining the publicity booth and lemonade stand at the Fair this year.

Publicity – per Carole nothing to report – would like to have some new blood on the committee. Possibly a FALL progressive dinner; per Becky Ruby.

Newsletter – Urban Times due date is tomorrow – April 7th – for the May Issue.

Land Use –

**Jonathan Chumley gave report from Land Use meeting – two meeting have taken place since last update given. Report from David Baker on Central Street project.

- Footlite is moving forward with renovations to the building at the corner on Alabama
- Elliot Trexler – windows issues has been resolved with IHPC.
- Jennifer Orr presented her plans for her home on New Jersey Street.
- Plans for a subway at the corner of 22nd and Meridian Street. Near North is not in support of this; adjacent to HMP – but we wanted to give our opinion. Janette Smith moved and Tiffany Berkson 2nd – Tom Foreman – discussion – about the plans (height of building, entrances, sidewalks, trash containers).

Motion Carries to support Land Uses decision to give a statement about our feelings regarding the proposed Subway.

- Tom Foreman – old properties in HMP – how is IHPC addressing the issues – contractors gone out of business, 327-4405 (concerns about IHPC related issues).

****John P. Craine House – presentation**

Presented to the Land Use committee first and then to the HMPA Board; now presenting to the general membership their wish to purchase the property at 1910 N. Delaware St. The Craine House currently only serve 9 families and want to expand to house more (women and children only). They try to provide all the programs they will need to be more independent and stronger when they leave to go back out into society. There is a zero-tolerance policy for the women. The women are not allowed to drive; they take the bus or walk to wherever they are going. Recidivism rate is only 13% for the women.

**Judge Mark Stoner spoke on behalf of them; and his familiarity with Craine House.

Concerns/Questions from HMP neighbors:

Tiffany Berkson – she see's her property value in question; Tiffany fails to see that this is something she wants in her block.

Eric Danneinmeir – questions the validity of operating a business on this site.

Tom Foreman – brought his file with him from the Caregivers (who wanted to purchase the property at 1910 N. Delaware St.). Variance must be obtained for a Zone D issuance.

**Concerned about the size – 18 beds – we want to keep it feeling like home and not like an institution. Suzanne from Craine House answered the question; would be an extensive amount of renovation done to the home to allow it to feel like a home. Neighbor – why not build instead of renovate a home.

John Mays – plans for the home; where are they? How are you involved in the neighborhood at 3535 N. Penn? Involved in the Mapleton Fall Creek neighborhood; a letter from Jackie Nytes is in support.

Scott Pratt – what are all of the facilities that under the umbrella of the organization?

Victoria Rutt – What will happen if we do not vote to support Craine House coming into HMP.

**The children can only be from infant to 5 years old.

Carole Veatch – what percentage of the monies come from correctional money? 52% from community correctional money.

Jonathan Chumley – the plans were improved from previous plans; Land Use. Would Crane House be willing to not have day-reporting – the answer is NO per Suzanne. They would make a commitment to not have any day-reporting on the premises.

Kathy Shortridge – see amendments/revisions below

Becky Ruby – what is the possibility of opening the home up to a Police Sub Station? The suggestion has been passed along; officer would like to talk to them further if they come into HMP.

So moved to table this to the May meeting – 2nd by Jonathan Chumley
Jennifer Orr- spoke on her emotional beliefs – we should step back and think about it.
Tom Foreman – does not want this tabled to the May meeting – the neighborhood made a stance about the building previously.

Yes - 17

No - 8

Meeting adjourned at 9:42pm

Amendments/Revisions to Minutes:

1.) per John Mays:

- A. It is not mentioned in the minutes that the Crane House agreed to respect the neighborhoods decision and would not pursue the property if we vote not to support their proposal.
- B. It is not mentioned that Janine Betsy said that King Park would not assist Crane House without neighborhood support.
- C. Kathy Shortridge noted that HMP has a halfway house and is within walking distance of many others and that we are already doing our part to support such facilities.
- D. Also, there were several neighbors who pointed out that the neighborhood had previously voted to only support D-8 zoning, a residential property or nursing home for 1910 North Delaware St.

