

HMPA Neighborhood Monthly Meeting – November 3rd, 2008

President Welborn – called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

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

Between 30 and 35 neighbors present at our meeting tonight!!

Recognition of Volunteers:

- Thanks to Marianne Lusk and to Footlite for planning and hosting Spooktacular at Footlite Theatre on Alabama Street.
- A Thank you to John Mays for coordinating the Plant Exchange that was held in the Herron Morton Park.

****HMP Community Garden at Talbott and 19th Street – Becky still working on coordinating this new project for HMP.**

****Welcome of new neighbors – and we are pulling together new neighbor bags/welcome kits!!**

****We are passing along Bob Alexander's new address in Warsaw! Please see a board member for his address!**

Heath and Hospital:

- Sheryl Crum introduced our new contact, Gary Caudill.
- She went over the report – see existing report that she gave to us!
- Discussion over Fessler Hall and the property at 1723 N. Pennsylvania St.
- Best way to get a hold of Gary and or Sheryl if there is a problem; is to email them.

IMPD – Officer Matt Jennings:

- Officer Jennings asked us what complaints we have currently.
- Kellie mentioned that we need to get the Crime Report – crimeview.org on IndyGov web site.
- Jane Root asked about the process for getting a Stop Sign put up – Jennings thought it might be through the city; maybe zoning! Stop sign at 17th and Alabama – on the Alabama side – can't see if you are crossing 17th street.

- Jennings mentioned that there have been some issues with traffic after the Colts Games – we’ve had some complaints in our neighborhood of speeding traffic.
- Kellie reiterated that we have asked about speed signs – the digital speed signs – might have to contact or go through the city to see if we can get one. Becky said that Carl Clark when he was our liaison that he was the one who put up the sign.
- The Synchronizaiton was a city thing as well – the stop lights from 16th up to 75th Streets.
- 19 accidents in 2005
- 19 accidents in 2006
- 3 accidents in 2007
- ? accidents so far this year in 2008
- Kellie mentioned that we have had a few smash and grabs in our neighborhoods lately – Jennings said to call if there is suspicious activity going on in HMP. If they are not wearing IPL or City personnel – it’s a 911 call and they will send an Officer out. Very simple process! Jennings said that everyone should be able to identify themselves!
- The crime report used to list the incidents in our neighborhood; we plan to have this at our next meeting. Kellie reiterated that it is helpful for us to have this. Officer Jennings will email the report to Kellie and she will spread the report out to the list serve and to our monthly meetings!
- Cory at the Prosecutor’s Office – ask to be at our January meeting on the 5th, 2009 – in charge of the Court Watch – neighbors who attend a hearing.
- Jonathan is concerned that several vacant homes are or potentially could be potential squatting places for vagrants. There a few homes in the 2100 block of North Penn – call 911 if we suspect something is going on. Sheryl said it might be 2157 N. Penn.

Mayor’s Neighborhood Liaison – Charles Ingram:

- Does anyone have any concerns – asked us for questions!
- Kellie reiterated to him that we have some concerns.
- Stop Sign – will need to be formal request sent to Ingram; per Jane.
- Speeding Signs – can we have digital speed signs? Delaware and Central is a strong concern of ours! Ingram said we can attempt to have more traffic law enforcement officers out there. The inability to have the lights synched will not happen because of FEMA – Delaware and Penn are considered “major arteries” – flow in and out of the city in case of an emergency. If there was a crisis – the traffic control officers could control them.
- Chris Bull wanted to know what our main arteries are out of the downtown area – Are the interstates included in this? If not, why? Kellie will see if DPW can come to our meeting to explain this to us.
- Kellie got a comment card back about Sidewalks in our neighborhood – can we lobby to get some of the completed. There is a list under DPW on the web site where the sidewalk work is being done – list of priorities. Rodney mentioned that the 16th and 18th Talbott sidewalks are bad.
- Elisabeth wanted to know how to fill pot holes in the alley – can she do it; do we have DPW do it –

- Ingram asked that we give him a list of concerns; email them to Kellie, Becky or Jason and we'll get them to Ingram.
- They want to try to save some of the bricks in the alley's – what can we do. ONS did it; but they had a gas line issue in that alley.
- Can we get more street lights – specifically on New Jersey. Becky reiterated that we have looked in to Historic Lighting in HMP. Fix - \$500; new Pole Thousands of dollars.
- Lights out – or problems – call IPL – 261-8111 also with the pole number – 261-8653 (and if you want to order a light, too). Rodney said you can go on IPL's web site and you can.
- The interceptor sewer at 21st and Talbott – is getting worse; Jonathan would like Mr. Ingram to see if there is a damned up problem – have the city look into it.
- Ingram passed out the form to fill out for the 2008 Mayor's Community Service Awards – deadline is November 14th, 2008.

Neighborhood Non-Profits, area Businesses and Schools in HMP:

- Bye, Bye Birdy going on now at Footlite
- We are going to be doing some updates to the HMP web site – have a community area on our web site – patronize the businesses in our area.
- Kellie passed out to the tables, our proposal between HMP and Herron High School. Strengthen our bond between the high school and the neighborhood. Mentioned that during the art fair students helped volunteer, etc.
- Jonathan was worried that students in the morning, are going to McDonald's, and the students are not crossing at the street intersections and just daring across the streets – saw too many close calls.
- Non-profit Holiday donations – Kellie wanted to have us do something different this year – what ideas can we come up with that we can do for those non-profits around us.

Membership –

53 paid members

Beautification and Clean Up –

No real report – lots of trash on curbs and streets – Russ encouraged us to take a trash bag and pick up trash!

Children and Family –

Marrienne not present – helping out with the Holiday Party here in December – we provide the meat; but neighbors are encouraged to bring a side dish, dessert, etc. Becky went over how the party has gone in the past. Friday December 12th – 6pm.

Publicity – Holiday Decorating Contest/Party - moved to December 4th – Carole – hold it in conjunction with King Park’s luminaries – King Park is going to try and break the world record with the greatest number of caroler’s in one location. HUGE luminaries will be set up around the King Park area; and then have a giant caroling event!!

January 31st – Progressive Dinner for HMP – Carole – great way to meet neighbors, volunteers needed – please see Carole – agenda set by Mid-January.

Carole met with St. Luke’s 86th and Meridian & Roberts Park downtown – 5:30pm Service– bring a contemporary church service on Saturday nights down to the downtown area. Want to see how they can get involved!!

Safety and Crime –

Victoria – hard to get members together; trying to get test cameras up in the alleys to record activities in the neighborhood. Having a place to post on the web site to post photos of known criminals; talked about lighting on homes, possibly getting private patrols – see email that was sent out recently –

Camera needs to be good enough to work in low lightning – needs to be good resolution – even the cheap ones are hard to view. She believes they were about \$400 each.

Jonathan, our IHPC rep, said that having signs – he isn’t sure what IHPC would allow us to do. If you are not sure, call Meg at IHPC.

Kellie had a conversation with Brad B – King Park – he is putting together a pretty comprehensive plan – bring us all together to purchase signage, lighting. Kellie asked that he meet with our Crime and Safety meeting. Kellie reiterated that we all come together on this.

Kellie will pass around a list for neighbors to sign up!

Jane asked that we allow our guests time to speak. Jane is the crime watch block. Jane introduced Deputy Diana Vanarsdall and Annie Kerns – **See Sheet** –

- Victoria – spoke that she has been on hold way too long for 911 – not the non-emergency. The deputy said there is probably no funding in the near future, to add extra operators/dispatchers – 911. They add new ones about 3 times a year – they must go through classes. Stressed to have kids know how to call 911 or emergency numbers.
- Please don’t hang up – it may take some time to answer, but please don’t hang up. The call is in que – rotating through the system. There are about 16 non-emergency lines – operators are not trained for 911 calls.
- Land lines – 911 can distinguish where you are – on Cell phones – you have to tell the dispatcher where you are. If for instance, get the address out when speaking to dispatcher! Deputy Vanarsdall reiterated DO NOT HANG UP!
- Keep your line open – so they can call you back or the officer can get a hold of you.

- You can remain anonymous – you do not have to put any of your personal information – does not go to the officer, not public information.
- Everything that comes into the call center is on tape – you can call back and request information. Calls can be tracked. Give date, time you called and the number from which you called from.

Annie Kerns – we organize in single blocks!! Talbott is coming soon according to Kellie. Annie said that they are block by block. For example 1500 Talbott Block – 2100 Alabama Block!

- Two meetings required to get started – Annie Kerns and Officer Tammy Peters (2nd meeting – she will come out to the block meeting)!
- She has seen armed robberies, car theft, personal thefts – watch ourselves during the Holiday season. Be careful getting out of your car in garage, wait till the door is closed before getting out of the car.
- Annie said that Crime Prevention is WORTH IT!!!
- Please be alert and aware of your surroundings! She said that the thieves, criminals have gotten slick and desperate in what they will do to steal from us. Criminals are using children to go to doors, to steal or get money!
- IndyStar has a 911 tracker – you can search – that is provided by the newspaper, not by IMPD. Someone at the paper is listening to the dispatch and putting on the IndyStar web site.

**Jonathan made a motion to write a letter to the city to formally ask that we put a Four Way Stop sign at the intersection of 17th and Alabama! Jane – seconded the motion – Kellie asked for vote – so moved – no abstentions!

Finance –

- Jessica gave update on our balance – get this
- Jason gave the year end report for 07-08

Foundation –

Janette – looking for tenants for the Foundry
Jonathan said that the Foundry will be power washed this week to get rid of the graffiti

Land Use –

Footlite went through the façade grant – will be extensive – it is the building at the corner of 17th and Alabama. Lot of tuck pointing and repairs – restoration of the fire escapes!

1924 Talbott Street – “Melrose Place” – trying to accommodate parking on Penn – tenants are using the lots on Pennsylvania. Zoning does not currently allow for them to be parking there.

Next meeting – Tuesday November 25th – Herron School of Art.

Art Fair – the dates will be June 13th and 14th

Newsletter –

Becky get it to her for the December issue by the end of this week. Holiday party and upcoming announcements from Publicity committee. Always looking for new articles.

New Business –

Neighborhood Priorities – note cards

Crime Watch sign-up – with Jane Root.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm – so moved by Becky!