

Northeast Area Partnership (NEAP)

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2008

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
4700 Vance Ave., Fort Wayne, IN

Denise Porter-Ross opened the meeting.

St Joe Road Widening Update -- Representatives from A-Z Construction explained that there have been issues with the project. The next phase is to begin next Friday (August 22, 2008). They are beginning phase 3 now and should be finished in November. Verizon duct is in the line and they have to shift traffic to the south. LSI is currently digging a ditch. Verizon needs time to remove and replace the duct. The duct will go in the utility strip and will never have to be moved again.

More traffic problems have been reported. Lanes will be shut down at times. Phase 3 is more involved than Phase 2 would have been. They have to remove the lane to Neighbor Drive. They are digging out the street 3-6 feet deep. They will replace the drives into the addition. Traffic will be maintained at times.

Next year Phase 1 will be completed which is the north side of St. Joe Center Road. Construction will begin in March or April. Completion date will not change.

Questions from the audience:

1. **Whom to call with concerns?** – Mark Ross or Andy Prexler on the office phone: 486-7820 – will be there Mon – Sat on the site. Phone lines have been down recently. If you tried to call, call again.
2. **How high will the south side be?** -- Level with the current road grade.
3. **How do we get into our driveways?** -- They will build a ramp – access to homes will be maintained. Barricades will be set up at Reed and St. Joe Center. City plans to maintain traffic on St. Joe Center. Karen Goldner added that Mark Ross will get the problems resolved. Call Karen Goldner if you are not satisfied. Mark is on the site at all times.
4. **Is the project on time target?** – Yes, it is on schedule.
5. **Will we lose phone service with Verizon moving the phone line?** – No. There will be a 15-minute delay when switched over some time in January.
6. **Whom to call for road closures?** -- Call Mark Ross. If not sure of changes call Mark, and he will take care of it. Area residents should avoid St. Joe Center Road.
7. **What can we do about trucks using alternative routes and tearing up side streets?** -- Give Mark a call if that occurs. A tree company who is working on the project has been using side streets but are not likely to damage the streets.
8. **Question from a Wyndemere resident regarding pin oak trees that have been disturbed and roots destroyed** – Mark said that trees marked with red paint were trim only and not to be cut down. Red paint saves the tree. The City arborist has been on the site checking the trees. He said if you have questions about the trees, call the City arborist. He added that sidewalks will be built on both sides of the street. The sidewalks will be very shallow – only 6 inches deep and they will not damage the trees.
9. **Who will maintain the entrances -- specifically do snow removal?** – Mark doesn't know, but he will check into it.
10. **What about washouts in the spring when the snow melts at the entrances?** -- Call Mark Ross if you have problems with your entrances.
11. **What will be done with the east end of St. Joe Center?** – Mark said no sewer work will be done there. But the next day they will begin moving the storm sewer. It goes down the center of the road and it will be moved to the south.

12. **Traffic control** – The ladies are doing well maintaining traffic. Mark said Fleming has the contract, and he will pass along their compliment.
13. **Tying into the sewer?** – City Utility rep said there are a group of houses not on the city sewer. Letters from the City may have been sent to other residents in error. Mark urged that residents slow down when driving through additions around St. Joe Center update.

Secretary's Report -- Minutes were approved and accepted.

Police Report -- DC Lynn Wetmore said that crime – larceny and theft is up in the northeast area. We have a new captain northeast – Tom Bander. He was Captain on Duty on third and head of Neighborhood Code Enforcement. His phone # is 427-1436.

DC Bender will have new policies regarding mopeds and scooters, which should be released in a couple of weeks.

Question from audience about shootings about what caused them – DC Wetmore said they are gang related. There has been gang interfighting in the apartments at Lake and Reed. Police mentioned that residents are not locking their cars. A neighbor caught a kid in a car and the kid said he was a member of Deboyz. DC Wetmore said Deboyz is one of the biggest gangs in Ft. Wayne.

There was a question about commercial vehicles parked in a residential area – they said that a flatbed truck and a wrecker were parked at one residence. The police answered that they will not enforce neighborhood covenants only city regulations. Semi truck parking is not allowed anywhere. Call parking control 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday and call police on the weekends.

A proposal for a Police and Sheriff Facility -- Councilman Tom Smith proposed that the vacant Home Depot at Lake and Coliseum be converted to a police and sheriff's center. It is not far from downtown and has plenty of parking. The current site the police are at – many residents do not even know where it is. City-County Building will not work -- there is not enough room and not enough parking. Home Depot is large enough to house the fire department, neighborhood code enforcement, city police, and county sheriff. Austin, TX, has done the same with a Home Depot. This ties in with Maplecrest extension and no store will ever go in there due to traffic taken off of Coliseum Blvd. by Maplecrest extension. This vacant building will not go back to retail – not a strong enough area for retail business. Home Depot facility has 117, 860 square feet and is only 5 years old. Mayor Henry says it is not large enough. Question regarding K-Mart on Coliseum – Tom Smith said they are doing ok.

Fire Report -- Captain Marsh Black – A firebug, hiding in bushes, was caught by a fire inspector. He had flammable materials in his pocket and confessed to 6 Ft. Wayne home fires he had set. The Ft. Wayne Fire Dept. no longer gives smoke detectors away. The newer style is much better and they are hoping to get them by Oct. 5th.

Rain Gardens Ann Marie Smrchek (phone 427-5679) presented an update on Rain Gardens, which are depressed landscape areas planted with native plants. Their purpose is to control run-off of storm water. They soak up excess storm water and the plants absorb it. They must be 10 feet from a house. The shapes are crescent, kidney, teardrop, and oval. They are not designed to create mud puddles or mosquito pits. The City will have 20 demonstration gardens soon. A Northside neighbor in the 900 block of Rivermet on the south side of the street has a rain garden that you can check. A rain garden does not have to be very big. Cost is between \$100.00 and \$1000.00.

Karen Goldner announced her next district meeting will be Sept. 15, 2008, at Shoaff Park.

City Report -- Denise Porter-Ross said the A to Z City Services listing is on the website. It can be printed out and shared. The City is getting a new website and has a new webmaster. If the City finds a meth lab, the property that contained it will be demolished. If you suspect a meth lab is in your neighborhood, call the drug hotline.

CSC Report -- Report was given by Tom Wall regarding new city ordinance for commercial code. The draft is 25 pages long on both sides and is on the City website. The City is working with Code Enforcement to make it as effective as possible. The new code will go to City Council in Sept. If passed, it will become effective in January 2009. The Sept. meeting will be the legislative meeting with Win Rood moderating.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

David Kohli
Secretary Pro Tem