

Southwest Area Partnership  
March 16, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:06PM by chair Adrienne Maurer. Introduction were made and the agenda was approved as written. The minutes were reviewed and approved. The treasurer's report was submitted by Billie Rykard.

AEP Tree Trimming

Kim Sabrosky from AEP discussed the tree trimming procedures and gave a visual presentation. She stressed the importance of customer service in their tree trimming procedures and showed the challenges to reliable electric service when trees are not trimmed regularly. She also stressed that current procedures involve the customer much more than in the past. The current procedures are focused on safety for the workers, customers and the general public and involve advanced notice to the customer with an opportunity to work with the customer on the best trimming program for both the customer and to insure the reliability of the line.

Questions/comments:

It was suggested to keep easements clear to allow workers easy access. There was a comment about the prior procedures and several comments about how much better the new procedures are.

Street Trees

Chad Tinkel, arborist from the parks department, spoke on the street tree program and the efforts of the parks department to handle the emerald ash borer issue that has impacted many of our street trees. There are over 55,000 trees the city is responsible for, with 157 different varieties, over 1,200 miles of roadway, 86 parks and 2,800 acres. The crew is focusing their efforts on ash tree removals.

The city cost share program for street trees will be available soon on the city's website, from April 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

As of March 15, 23% of the city's trees are ash; some neighborhoods have only ash trees. There are 27,512 potential planting sites in the southwest quadrant; 16,000 of those sites currently have a tree. Neighborhoods can work with the park department on a tree replacement program.

Fence Post

Brent Wake presented information about the new city web page Fence Post, giving residents a common place to communicate with the city and with each other. The address is [www.cityoffortwayne.org/fencepost](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/fencepost). There are several forums for posting information: News & Announcements, a forum for each neighborhood association and a forum for neighborhood association presidents.

FWPD

We were informed that crime is down 18.1% in our quadrant over last year. With spring break approaching, there could be an increase in burglaries. It was recommended that we all check out [spokeo.com](http://spokeo.com) and have our personal information removed.

#### FWFD

Chief Pete Kelly spoke about the smoke detector program and that there are still detectors available. Call 427-1478 for more information. The April 19<sup>th</sup> Mad Ants game proceeds will go to the Police/Fire memorial with a Fire VS Police basketball game following the Mad Ants game.

#### BZA Issues

The Taylor University property has two items on this month's BZA agenda. Both items involve the Gerig Building; the university is dividing the building into two parts in order to retain ownership of the radio station half of the building. This requires two requests to reduce setbacks to zero. Surrounding neighborhoods are in favor of the two requests.

#### Old Business

No new information to report.

#### New Business

Robert's Rules of Order - Adrienne asked for a group to identify the most common activities that occur with neighborhood association meetings and find the Robert's rule for that activity. The end result would be a summarized brief list for neighborhood presidents. Billie Rykard has something similar she can share. Adrienne will review and report back to the group next month.

Councilman Mitch Harper spoke on some happenings in the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

It was announced that there will be a 5<sup>th</sup> District City Council Candidates Forum, Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7PM at Eicher Commons in the Taylor campus.

There will also be several mayoral candidate forums: one on March 29<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Indiana Tech and a televised debate at IPFW, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 (shown on WPTA).

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.