

Southwest Area Partnership Minutes

February 20, 2008

Total Present: 59

Chairperson, Adrienne Maurer called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. She reminded Associations that the CEDIT Request for 2009 deadline is near for the \$3.5M funds available for the whole city. Neighbors with flooding problems are asked to call Homeland Security, phone 1-866-210-1925 from 8-5pm.

Tim Pape, 5th District Councilman, spoke on: The smoke ordinance action of City Council. He spoke at length on meeting the city finance needs and possibilities: Raising the \$3.8M tax levy; The rainy day fund; And what may happen, such as chances that personnel will be cut, maybe a revenue replacement option, maybe a local Allen County income tax increase, the state income tax increase option of +1%, the 1% circuit breaker on personal property tax, an accelerated business tax, and assessment system changes. He felt a referendum is less fair than voters voting on issues. He also spoke on the need for good paying jobs in FW and the need for the schools, local, state, and federal government to be in alignment to attract higher paying jobs to our area. FW is a \$200M corporation and needs good planning.

Dawn Ritchie, Greenways Manager, spoke on our proposed 40-mile interconnected Greenway Trails and the goals to enhance quality of life, provide education, health & wellness opportunities, safe transportation and connectivity. She spoke on the partnership of Greenway, Aboite Trails, NW Allen County Trails, and NIRC, and the goal to have trails within 15 minutes of each household. She spoke about the 12 ft. wide Wabash-Erie Towpath Trail, the 3 ½ mile Covington-W. Hamilton trail, a future Ardmore trail, a greenway trail to Jefferson Pt. and a Rudisull trail. The goal is to have trails a minimum of 10 ft. wide. NIRC will be updating trail plans with meetings in the fall and individuals are invited to participate. Dan Avery will be a fall SWAP speaker on this. Foster Park trail is one of the most used trails. There are 50 volunteer trail rangers now, and cameras will be installed in the future to monitor trail usage to get a more accurate count on usage. Recently \$500,000 was spent to repave 12 miles of trails. \$2M from CEDIT helped the Greenway Trails. There are now 23 miles of trails completed.

Lori Keys, Ex. Dir. Of Aboite New Trails, spoke on the Aboite Mission, the Ron Repka Foundation and trail donors, the Ellison Rd.-Fox Island future trail, and said "Trails are The Beaches of the Midwest". To reach Lori Keys call 969-0079.

The minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer's report, with a balance of \$770.98, was read and approved.

Ken Nicolet, FW SW Neighborhood Specialist, announced the Mayor's State of the City Address next week, the 2/28 Project Coordinating Committee meeting on 2008/2008 projects. Ken had a 2030 Transportation Plan at the meeting for all to view. Ken announced the EITC available to many lower income residents who qualify its great benefits. Ken announced the fund-raiser breakfast at the FOP on Olladale for the benefit of Cops For Kids & the Bike Helmet program which is Sat. 2/23 at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

FWPD Deputy Chief, Doug Lucker spoke about April Crime Prevention, the DVD available for NA meetings, and the 147 active neighborhoods in southwest FW and the lack of NLO's to serve the increasing area. Partnerships say neighborhoods should attend ½ of the SWAP meetings to keep an NLO. DC Lucker mentioned that the March 3rd Academy Classes of 13 officers had been cancelled because of budget cuts causing more of an officer shortage.

Mitch Harper, 4th District Councilman, spoke on the terrific efforts of volunteers during the recent flooding problems and the amazing cooperative involvement. He spoke on the how TIF and incentives will change if House Bill 1001 is passed. Although he felt TIF is necessary, he said if we don't grant TIF then we can finance Police and other needs more.

Billie Rykard announced the Food Tasting event at the Botanical Gardens on Friday, 2/22, at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Adrienne Maurer announced that Sewer Separation & Flood Projects will be on next month's SWAP agenda.

Buelah Stoker announced the Connett Fund Raiser at the Lantern on March 8th from 5-9 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
Marge Johnson, Acting Secretary