

**Southwest Area Partnership  
Minutes  
May 20, 2009**

At Bethany Lutheran Church

Total Present: 48, with 29 signing the attendance sheet.

Chair, Adrienne Maurer called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Introductions followed.

Minutes were approved as written.

The Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$514.11 was approved as read.

Ken Nicolet, FW SW Advocate, introduced the FEMA Inter-Government Affairs representative, Mary Ellen Mango, who will be in Fort Wayne until 6/22 working with city FEMA issues from recent storm problems.

He announced the city is getting increased family pool questions and fireworks calls now that warm weather has arrived. Ken said the 5<sup>th</sup> District is getting many street improvements, as well as 6 ½ miles of street paving in the Aboite annexed area. The Police Dept. Bike Sale will be May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at the St. Marys Ave. police location.

Ken said the Buckner Farms Park 1<sup>st</sup> phase of 200 acres is done with a pavilion, 2 playgrounds, a splash pool and picnic area.

The annual Child Safety Fair at Safety Village will be May 23, Sat., 10 – 4 pm., with many activities, free hair cuts, a raffle of a mini-van, and fire trucks and safety vehicles will be on display.

FWPD Deputy Chief Doug Lucker announced April crime is down 21.3% from last year. Three problem criminals are now in lock up. Open garage thefts are up. He warned a scam of a couple with out of state license plates going to residents saying their vehicle broke down and asking for money to pay for a tow truck. The FWPD is working on drug houses in the quadrant, and crowd gathering problems springing up again in Foster Park so more police patrol is planned there to curb violation of park regulations. Al Mol stated people have even set up "picnics" on the golf course while it's in use.

Marge Johnson gave the BZA report of 2 items,

(1) Case 13-2009 of Hamlets Corp. for a permanent construction in the middle a residential neighborhood at 9909 Woodland Ridge was delayed until June 18<sup>th</sup>, and SWAP distributed a petition to neighborhoods urging denial so this variance does not set a precedent for future variances in residential neighborhoods.

(2) On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Monday, at 6 pm in Room 126 of City-County Bldg. there will be a public hearing on a proposed planned residential development at 1900 block of Reservation Dr. and Bluffton Rd. by Keller Development who developed Tiffany Heights on Ardmore previously.

The Stay-Cation Fair to promote the many events and places to go in Fort Wayne for free or at a very reasonable cost for families who want to "stay-cation" in Fort Wayne this year was a very interesting and informative presentation of ten or more city entities.

There was a Tin-Caps/Harrison Square presentation on the 18 upcoming Fri. & Sat. events and fireworks, with many handouts.

Dennis Robinson of FW Visitors Bureau of 1021 S. Calhoun open M-Fri. or go to: FW.com on the internet for info on "Vacation At Home" about great attractions in FW, such as the Botanical Observatory's "Wizard of Oz" presentation from July thru October, Lincoln Center, Science Central, Zoo Pass, Courthouse "Artwork" tours, Lincoln Tower and more.

Downtown Improvement District presented on "Play Downtown" special events and promotions coming up for free or with discounts available. Some events were the 6/4 Freiman Family Night from 6-9 pm where thousands of balloons will be launched, the Street Performance at 1 Summit Square on 7/31 Friday from 5-9pm, the "Lunch on the Square" each Wed. in July with music, a free Wellness Corner, and much more. A Mardi Gras event is also upcoming.

Embassy Theatre , built in 1928, announced available tours for \$2.00 a ticket available for small or large groups, has seating for 2500, with events from Sept. to May, and has 300 volunteers who can get into shows for free.

Science Central with 120 exhibits, including 2 new robotic exhibits, the June "Space Shuttle Tire" exhibit, the new event where you compete to throw a sack of flour 300 ft. The cost is \$7 per person with a buy-one-get-one-free ticket.

Judy Alexander gave a presentation on the History Center, open Mon -Fri 10-5, Sat. noon-5, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, with the American Guild Organ Tour event coming up.

Al Mol ,Director of FW Parks Dept. talked about the over 300 summer programs, Foellinger Theatre with free Wed. movies and 30 concerts such as Three Dog Night and the Letterman coming, the free 5 day summer day camps at Kettler & Waynedale parks, the Lifetime Sports Academy, the park golf courses, Franke Day Camp, and Solomon Farms.

Jim Anderson of FW Children's Zoo announced the events are 9-5 thru Halloween, every day, every hour with programs. The new African Veldt is complete with many new animals. There are 14,400 families with season passes. For info go to: Kids do that.com

Headwaters Park Director, Goeff Paddock for over 16 years explained that Headwaters Park has an agreement with the city to manage the park. Forty events are planned for this year, individuals can become members of Headwaters Park, and events in the Lincoln Pavilion are weddings and events such as the Great American Clean-up Party recently.

The Dome on Engle Road gave a talk about their sports program, the arts and crafts camp from 9-4, and etc. For info go to: SW.Dome.com website.

SWAP will have more details on the above programs on the SWAP website.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Marge Johnson, Secretary