

Southwest Area Partnership

Minutes

Aug. 19, 2009

At Bethany Lutheran Church

Present: 41, with 35 signing the attendance sheet.

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

The agenda was adopted with Billie Rykard to speak on the Wayndale Post Office closing and Grant Shipley to speak on reviewing SWAP By-laws.

Introductions followed.

Craig Nix, Learn United Volunteer Coordinator, gave in very informative talk on the need for volunteers to help students from grades K-3rd grade learn to read at their grade level.

About 40% of 3rd graders do not read at their grade level and students from poor homes have a vocabulary of about 800 words. To volunteer to help students read better, call Learn United at 423-6447 or email Craig Nix at cnix@abouteducation.org for a time to meet your schedule.

Ken Nicolet, FW SW Advocate, made several announcements about:

The Regional Neighborhood Network Conference to be held on September 17-19 in Decatur, IL.

Southside Fest at Rudisill Plaza which was a huge success.

National Night Out which was a great event at Packard Park on Aug. 4th.

South Wayne Elementary School's project of a Community Garden adding beauty to the area.

Recent reorganization of the Sherwood-Pettit N.A. with a new president.

The upcoming Mardi Gras on Columbia West event.

The Mayor's Night Out which was well attended.

The West Central Neighborhood Walk which was postponed until the 3rd week of September.

Fort Wayne Police Department Deputy Chief, Doug Lucker reported on petty thefts, car thefts, and vandalism which is a summer problem, especially thefts from autos which are in the SW, NE, and NW quadrants of the city, but are less in the SE quadrant. With thefts from autos, the vandals are throwing away credit cards, but selling GPS units at pawn shops and second hand stores. Auto thefts are mostly done by a crime ring of about 50 criminals. We are urged to keep our cars locked at all times as most thefts are from unlocked cars.

The BZA report was given by Marge Johnson

Minutes of the last meeting was approved as written.

Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$368.45 was approved as read.

New Business:

Billie Rykard spoke on the announcement of the possible closing of the Waynedale Post Office.

After discussion, a Petition was circulated against the closing of the Waynedale Post Office which will be presented to the proper officials and government representatives.

Grant Shipley spoke on the need for review and possibly updating our SWAP By-Laws. After discussion, a motion was made to form a By-Laws Committee with Grant Shipley as Chairman, with By-Laws Committee volunteers: Billie Rykard, Carolyn DeVoe, Marge Johnson, and Todd Fruehling.

Jim Sechler spoke on the Aug. 14, 2009 letter from Indiana Michigan Power about the expiration of the lease contract by I&M and the City of Fort Wayne which expires on Feb. 28, 2010 and changes that may be coming about, so that we may act on that issue as soon as possible.

Ken Nicolet spoke about whether the SWAP may be interested in obtaining a 501c3 status to help or sponsor neighborhoods in our quadrant who do not have 501c3 status.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Marge Johnson, Secretary