

We convened our February meeting first with introductions of all those associations in attendance and then broke up into three different groups. The reason for this was to accommodate the several representatives that accompanied Al Moll from Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation.

Talk revolved around the general overview of the Parks and its future, future plans for Saloman Farm Park, trees and everyone was able to see their drawings for the future.

Regarding the future of the Parks, improvements and expansion of services were discussed and the need for a splash pad at Hamilton Park (promised years ago) and the need for path repairs. Unknown to us, Saloman Farm Park is 170 acres which includes the walking path (near the YMCA) and the small lake fronting on DuPont Road. We also learned that besides the Farmer's Market, animals, acreage and crops, the wonderful old barn since its refurbishing now holds receptions and events of all kinds. There are also trails, gardens, wetlands and livestock raised at this farm along with 30's and 40's farming equipment in running order and on display. The whole mission of Saloman Farm Park was to actually own and operate a working farm which they are doing very successfully.

Of our over 52,000 trees, basically 24% (or 1,000) have been stricken by the Emerald Ash disease and are being triaged to worse cases and available funds. Neighborhoods also can twin with the city and go half with them for trees we want planted in our park strips for only \$75. Call 311 for further information. Also discussed was the Community Center downtown which sponsors many activities such as Winter Carnival, Santa Workshop and Halloween to name a few. There are also many activities for seniors to participate in and enjoy year around.

A new free service was also introduced to neighborhoods that assists homeowners in finding trustworthy, value and service focused contractors/businesses for their home project needs. This service is very appropriate since many people become objects of scams. To find out more about this service call Tony Messuri at 676-2032 or go to <http://www.thehomeownershelper.com>.

In a "round robin" format such as our February meeting, the guests remain seated and the speakers move to the next group. This gives an excellent opportunity for everyone to hear, participate and ask questions. This type of meeting is very popular and requested but may demand more time than usual. In an effort to adjourn timely, the reports were brief.

We hope you will be with us March 21 to hear another popular speaker, Ricky Kemery, Extension Educator – Horticulture of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, Allen County Office just in time for planting this Spring's gardens. You can always stay in touch with us through [www.neighborhoodlink.com/NWAP](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/NWAP) or [www.facebook.com/NWAPPartnership](http://www.facebook.com/NWAPPartnership).

Rosie O'Grady, NWAP co-chair

