

UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF EVANSVILLE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

March 26th, 2009

Neighborhoods and organizations present were: Akin Park, Alvord, Ballard, Culver, Diamond Stringtown, Eastview, GBC, Glenwood, Helfrich, Hilltop, Iroquois Gardens, Jacobsville, North Country Club, Oak Hill, Red Cross, South Lincoln Park Drive, STAR, Western Terrace, Westside Improvement, and Wheeler.

The meeting in the Red Cross Building was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Dave Ballew. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Morgan.

Minutes – Linda Jones

Minutes of February 26th, 2009 meeting were approved as written. The motion was made by Jim Morgan and the second by Dick McKasson, motion carried.

Financial Report – Dick Tredway

March financial statements and minutes of the March meeting were distributed. The Payroll Expense included 3 payroll periods and the Professional Fees exceeded budget which included year-end payroll reporting expense. The Sparkplug Banquet Expense of \$200 was for the room deposit at the Scottish Rite for the 2009 banquet. The report was filed for review.

Old Business

Free First Aid and CPR Classes – Nicole Folz

UNOE has partnered with the Red Cross to hold First Aid and CPR classes for UNOE families at no cost through a grant from Welborn Baptist Foundation. A flyer was distributed with the information. There will be two 4 hour classes which you must attend both or an all day class. The classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday, April 14th and 16th from 6 – 10 p.m. and Saturday, **May 30th** from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. A workbook, 3 skill cards, first aid kit, etc. are included.

Great American Cleanup – Ann Ennis

The theme for this year's Great American Cleanup is "Green Starts Here".

- March 15th Registrations Due
- March 28th UE "Give Back Program" – cleaning the Greenway from 10am – 2pm
- April 4th Picnic at Wesselman Park from 11am-1pm (get supplies if you haven't already)
- April 18th Tire Amnesty at Civic Center 8am-noon
- May 16th Great American Cleanup Day

New Business

Sparkplug Banquet Update – Chris Cooke

Chris announced the next meeting will be April 13th at 5 p.m. in the UNOE office. The meeting will include discussion about speakers and the theme for this year. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting ~ if you can't and have ideas for a speaker and a theme please let Chris or Lori know. The Banquet will be held on November 6th this year at the Scottish Rite.

Bank on Evansville – Paul Farmer

Paul distributed information about the new Bank on Evansville program. This is a program based on the successful Bank on San Francisco model in which area banks and credit unions address the needs of residents without bank accounts in the city. Participating banks and credit unions have developed low-cost or no-cost starter and second-chance accounts that are available as of January 2009. A Financial Education curriculum has been prepared and Paul is available to present this to neighborhood associations. Brochures are available in the UNOE office as well as a link on the UNOE website.

Citizen's Academy –

Carolyn Stagg encouraged the neighborhoods to take advantage of the Citizen's Academy that starts on April 7th – May 19th free of charge. The goal of the Citizen's Academy is to give members of the community an inside look at the various units of the police department and to create better understanding and communication between citizens and police through education. Members of the department instruct each session and cover topics relevant to the units in which they work. The Citizen's Academy is offered in the Spring and in the Fall of each year. It is held from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings for seven consecutive weeks.

Bob Wargel from **Wheeler Neighborhood** introduced himself and announced that his neighborhood has had a lot of home invasions and robberies. Since October there have been 10 incidents. The man confronts people, threatens rape, focuses on

the elderly, etc. There has been no activity in the last month. There is a reward offered for any information on this person from Wheeler Neighborhood.

Paul Farmer announced that the new AT&T phone books have started to be delivered and Disaster Resistant Preparedness (DRC) has 2 pages of **Disaster Preparedness Information** starting on page 27, right after the zip codes, which is excellent placement for visibility. Please inform your family, friends and others of the location of this information in the phone book to help them be more prepared at home. Copies were distributed.

David Ballew reminded everyone that the **Census Bureau** is now hiring for the 2010 Census. UNOE has contact information on the website and at the office.

Chris Cooke announced he received Board approval to create a **Facebook Page** for United Neighborhoods of Evansville. This is a great tool for free advertising, networking, and posting information on the web about our organization. The Board hopes this will help recruit new and younger members with modern technology.

David Ballew announced that the city is offering free wood chips to the public on Saturday, March 28th at the back of Oak Hill Cemetery from 8 a.m. – 12 noon. You will have to load the chips yourself and sign a waiver form. If the weather does not permit, it will be available the following Saturday.

David also announced that the **A.C.T.S.** (Answering the Call To Serve) Program does not have a lot of response yet. This program involves youth and adults from various locations around the state and tri-state who participate in a Christian work camp that go into local homes to do yard work, paint, clean, and other minor home repairs and projects. An application must be filled out prior. Forms and information were distributed.

Fathers Matter is providing a Basic Employment Skills Workshop on Thursday's, March 26th – April 16th at 6 p.m. at the C.K. Newsome Center. The instructors will be Evansville-Vanderburgh County Building Commission Inspectors and they will teach basic electrical, plumbing, and woodworking skills. Flyers were distributed.

Program

Ann Ennis with Keep Evansville Beautiful (KEB) and EVIE the Labrador retriever

Ann announced that KEB is always looking for more ways to collaborate and innovate. KEB wants to get more people involved to keep our community clean. KEB's mission is to be a catalyst (engaging people, rally-er, cheerleader, empowering) for citizen action creating a beautiful, inviting, healthy outdoor environment to assure an improved quality of life (neighborhoods, parks, tree canopy, healthy living) and enhanced economic growth (business, young adult retention, recruiting, innovative) for the greater Evansville area (think regionally and statewide). Their vision is to align (*or gateways, exploring expansion, urban planters, forming Keep Indiana Beautiful, conservation and civics-based school programs*) with business, government, schools, churches and neighborhoods in order to create a sustained focus (*on gateways, any agency expansion, greenscapes, urban planters, expanded stronger conservation school programs*) on the beautification (*with and through gateways, greenscapes, larger urban planters, engaging people, curb appeal, nurturing interest in horticulture and arboriculture, fighting litter, forming Keep Indiana Beautiful*) of Evansville. Ann announced the **Great American Cleanup (GAC)** dates again and answered questions regarding the GAC.

EVIE (Every Volunteer Is Essential) the Labrador retriever also was a guest at the meeting and performed her demonstration on picking up litter. Keep Evansville Beautiful's Retrieving with EVIE program received first place for litter prevention programs, competing against both large and small affiliates from across the nation in Washington D.C. The Retrieving with EVIE program started with a children's book Susan Harp authored called "Retrieving with EVIE," which teaches elementary aged children about litter and keeping the community clean. Steve and Susan Harp and EVIE have taught many children about litter at public, private and parochial schools by traveling to city and county schools to tell EVIE's story and let the dog show off her tricks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

~Evening on the River will be Friday, May 29th.

~Disaster Resistant Community Corporation is offering an award for the first time for people who have done mitigation regarding disaster preparedness in the community. The UNOE Board voted to nominate Carolyn Stagg for doing the Disaster Preparedness Workshop. Paul will fill out the necessary paperwork and turn into DRC. The Awards Banquet will be Thursday, April 16th at 6 p.m. More details to come.

~Susan Harp mentioned that her neighborhood was having a coyote problem. The population is increasing, be alert and careful of your dogs and cats.

Gordon Dingham made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dick Tredway seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Lori Gardner, Secretary Pro tem