

UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF EVANSVILLE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

June 25th, 2009

Neighborhoods and organizations present were: Akin Park, Ballard, CHAIN, City Council, Culver, Diamond-Stringtown, Eastview, GBC, Helfrich, Hilltop, Iroquois Gardens, Jacobsville, Lant Manor, Mt. Auburn, Oak Hill, Poplar Grove, Presidents, South Lincoln Park Drive, STAR, University South, Vogel-Spring Park, Western Terrace, Westside Improvement and Willamette Village.

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 the May 28th, 2009 meeting were approved as written with the correction of the spelling of CHAIN. The motion was made by Janet James and the second by Rene McCormick, motion carried.

Financial Report – Fred Padget

May financial statements were distributed. Fred reported we are current with the City. Fred pointed out that the line item for neighborhood printing has already exceeded the budgeted amount for the year ~ this is a good thing ~ it shows the neighborhoods are taking advantage of it. The office supplies are \$108.87 over budget this month ~ \$146.69 was reimbursed by neighborhoods. (Neighborhoods can order supplies and reimburse UNOE for them). The report was filed for review.

Old Business

Sparkplug Banquet Update – Chris Cooke

Chris Cooke announced the banquet will be on November 6th at 6pm at the Scottish Rite. The next meeting will be at 5:30pm on July 8th in the UNOE office. The menu will be finalized at this meeting. Sponsorship and donation forms will be available soon. If you know of someone that would like to donate or purchase a sponsorship, let Chris know.

Litter Patrol - Susan Harp announced that Ballard neighborhood applied for the additional \$250 for their Litter Patrol efforts. Glenwood will have another clean-up this Saturday. She also announced that the Parks, Trees, and Beautification committee met and discussed that parks don't have adequate park benches and there are trees still down from the ice storm.

New Business

Upcoming General Membership Meetings – Tom Barnett will attend the August meeting and talk about Front Door Pride. The July meeting will be a workshop to show people how to navigate the internet to find out information that pertains to their neighborhood. It will be titled “Do UNOE where to go for info??”. Karan Barnhill from the City Engineer's Office will also be at the July meeting to talk about a new program.

National Night Out – NNO will be held on Tuesday, August 4th from 6-9 pm at Akin, Garvin, and Lorraine Parks. The City Wide NNO committee decided not to do the float for the Freedom Festival this year – it is on July 4th. The parade will be a little later this year and they did not want to be tearing the float down in the dark. Also, the traffic will be bad with the fireworks being the same night.

**Program: Evansville Arena Project – John Kish, Project Director and
Kathy Kleindorfer – Chair of the Evansville Arena
Project Committee**

Kathy spoke about the building of Roberts Stadium back in the 50's; the City wasn't for it back then either but Mayor Hank Roberts moved forward with the plans anyway. When he decided to continue with the plans and built the Stadium anyway – that probably lost him the election. There are a lot of things happening downtown – the Loft Program, Vectren building their Headquarters downtown, and Old National building down there. When asked why not just rebuild on the Robert's Stadium site; she said there is funding for downtown but not for the Eastside. Kathy is the granddaughter of the late Mayor Hank Roberts.

John Kish told about the

- 3 city owned parking garages that include 3000 parking spaces
- will change the flow of traffic on downtown streets to make access easier
- \$90 million to renovate Robert's or \$90 million to build a new downtown arena (\$30 million down payment)

The financing plan consist of funding streams

- TIF (Tax Increment Finance) district – which allows tax increases created by development to be “captured” and used to fund further development
- Food and Beverage tax – shift from convention center to arena
- Gaming (riverboat) – tax wagering/admissions/leased property from city

The benefits of a new arena

- 10 or 11,000 seats which will be a lot bigger
- better handicapped seating area
- 5 locker rooms
- standard size Hockey floor
- better concessions
- will be able to see the floor from the concourse area

It has not been decided what will happen to Roberts Stadium. There will be a scheduling committee to make sure 2 big events are not going on at the Convention Center and the Arena at the same time. For more information you can visit the Arena website at www.evansvillearena.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

Linda Jones
UNOE Secretary