

PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

STRONG  SAFE  WELCOMING  CONNECTED  NEIGHBORHOODS

Meeting Minutes Neighborhood Action Committee November 17th, 2009

Present: Brian Cooper, Laurie Krivitz, Roy Evans, Jimmy Gerding, Sheldon Schwartz, Kerry Stone, Patty Lammers, Al Oertwig, Bill Zajicek, Dave Theisen, Larry Simpson, Sharny Yang, Mary Ellen Jaspers, Tamara Downs Schwei, Melissa Cruff, Robert Schmidt, Mark Gallagher, Jodi Ehlenz, Roger Posch, Romi Slowiak, Barb Johnson, Janice Lafloe, Kim Mathes, Dr. Troy Vincent, Ann Polachek, Dan the coffee man, Peter Rylski, Jake Erickson, Al Oertwig, Dan Bostrom

Welcome and Introductions

Kerry welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself and Sheldon as committee co-chairs. She provided Dr. Vincent with the opportunity to talk about some of the exciting things happening at Farnsworth School. He talked about how the school has worked to develop a large band program with over 150 youth participating. He would like to see them invited to perform in the community more often. He also talked about a new math-based basketball program allowing youth to participate in programming at the school until 8 pm at night. Finally he noted he's always looking for volunteers at the school and is currently seeking people to judge the science fair.

Kerry explained that tonight's meeting would be focused on brainstorming ideas for community building/place making activities. Then at next month's meeting the group will talk more in detail about putting together projects and identifying resources.

Each person introduced themselves explaining where they lived and why they were at the meeting.

Brainstorming Session

Kerry opened the floor for project ideas. Several suggestions were made for possible projects:

- Boy scouts are supporting the block nurse program; the program seeks additional volunteer support. Eagle scouts are looking for projects.
- Blvd gardening projects
- Seeking venues for Eastside entertainment activities for all ages-
 - Dinner theatre – possibly in the Payne/Maryland project
 - Using the Humanities Commission building
 - Movie nights
 - Concerts
- YMCA offers youth volunteers seeking projects
- Paint the Pavement (NAC demo project suggested on Walsh & Sherwood)
- Organizing residents by grid areas (small towns) suggested
- Garden tours/contest
- Practice your conversational Spanish/language groups
- Multicultural cooking classes

- Neighborhood Home Recognitions given annually
- Community Gardens/garden contest
- Volunteering on Habitat for Humanity Eastside Projects offered as a way for people to do short term, one-time projects
- Alley clean-ups and beautification
- Alley lighting

Councilman Dan Bostrom was asked to explain the process (es) for opening up vacant land for community use after a home was torn down in a neighborhood. He talked about the need for moving through at least a three-year delay before land could possibly become available – some expedited process could be used in certain circumstances. He also led a short discussion about foreclosures and about the availability of Class 2 foreclosed homes for redevelopment. His experience of buying those homes and meeting city inspection requirements was related by Bob Schmidt.

Bostrom discussed the Payne/Maryland Project's recent developments/funding possibilities and discussed his dream for a community theater in the complex.

People gathered to snack and discuss ideas among themselves.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.