

Jefferson Park United Neighbors

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday 6:30 PM, December 2, 2008

Riverside Baptist Church rear chapel

W. 24th Avenue & Bryant Street

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Kari-elin Mock at 6:42.

Announcements

JPHUN Holiday Happy Hour will be Dec. 11 at Araujo's, W. 26th Ave. at Eliot.

There will be no Land Use Committee meeting this month and there are no agenda items set as yet, but there'll be a meeting in Jan. 2009.

2009's first general membership meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009.

District One Police Report

Officer Jason Valdez passed out the latest statistical breakdown showing that crime is down 10% this month. The total decrease in crime is down 25% from last year to now. Even auto thefts are down (for now). There are continuing issues on W. 24th & W. 27th Avenues. 2215 Eliot St. is under observation and we were urged to call police if anything seems suspicious. 2809-2811 W. 27th also noted. Residents can "be eyes" for police. There was a garage fire recently in back of a home on Eliot at W. 24th. Officer Martinez again emphasized that if observant residents and police work together, there will be greater effectiveness in all aspects of crime-fighting. If there are other addresses where there are undesirable activities or persons, police will check those out, and will continue keeping an eye on them.

Secretary Report

Joan Bondy reported that there were 12 membership meetings and 6 board of directors meetings in 2008; minutes are posted on the website. Joan Bancroft is going to take over as secretary in 2009.

Treasurer's Report

Susan said that over last 3 years, expenses have been cut pretty close. Our main expenses have been the annual events of Jefferson Park Day and Halloween, and publishing the newsletter. This year we had \$2300 in expenses but we pulled in only \$1300, with a \$1000 deficit carried over from previous years. We had donations preventing us from going into 2009 with negative cash flow--just received was a substantial "door fee" from one of our major developers, which is very much appreciated. There are many ways to raise funds and create good will in the neighborhood. If anyone can donate time, resources, or skills, we'd like to encourage them to participate. Every single donation makes a difference. Talk to your neighbors! We now have about \$2300. We've had in-kind donations which should not be underestimated, pointed out Barbara. We slimmed down this year...however, we'd like to be able to continue our popular and successful events.

Committee Reports

Land Use

David Zucker had to leave, but Kari was to recap the last meeting. However, first we heard the presentation by Lauren Brockman of Allied Development's new apartment complex project concerning the vacation of one block of Alcott St. from Speer to W. 27th Ave. Lauren mentioned that he'd contribute something after hearing our treasurer's report and plea for donations! Drawings detailed their specific landscaping design and changes to the existing streetscape. This had previously been shown to the Land Use Committee. The pedestrian use plaza includes water features, plantings, and through access from Speer Blvd. There's very little traffic currently on that segment of Alcott because the surrounding buildings are not occupied. Allied is asking support for this improvement from JPUN. Kari said that Land Use was presented with this plan at the last meeting on Nov. 20 and they voted to approve. There were 6 voting members present and it passed unanimously. Rafael made a motion to vote tonight. By a show of hands, it passed 16-1. December 22 is the date of the hearing at city council. Lauren and his associate, the project manager, indicated that they will be available for questions throughout the development process. The plan is to build the whole thing at once and the timetable was reviewed for us. Demolition of existing buildings on site will take 3-4 weeks. They'll be recycling steel, concrete, and asphalt.

Safety

Crime rates in the neighborhood continue to go down. Katherine is stepping down after serving for three years as Safety Committee chairman. She expressed appreciation for Officer Martinez and his team. She pointed out the increase in technology and greater effectiveness from when she started.

Environmental

Barbara spoke for Bill, who wasn't present. She noted the increase in improvements in this area as evidenced by more pride in property, and not as many code issues (although there's still much room for improvement). More and more people are participating in recycling.

Social

Esther and Lindsey will be co-chairing in 2009. Two chairpersons on board in the coming year, plus additional helpers, will enable more fun events. This past year, activities at Adams Mystery Theater and the Aquarium were great successes. We'll have a scrapbook now. Brainstorming will be directed toward raising more money! Raffles and door prizes are planned. January's event will be at Amlavi in RiverClay. The 2nd Thursday of every month will be the social 'date.' Esther's language skills in Spanish are a great advantage too. Kari asked when the first brainstorm session will be. Lindsey will send an e-mail with specific time and date, most likely in early January.

Special Projects

Ed reported that the Town Square retail area is progressing. The Tepper building is getting rehabbed, and the building David Burton owns next to the theater. Jefferson Park

Town Square is revitalizing that corner, organized now with a board of directors and officers. A restaurant is being discussed. The old theater may be turned into micro offices. There are 2 rezonings on Eliot: the parking lot east of Jack-N-Grill to RMU-20, and Tim DePumpo's property on the SE corner of W. 26 to MS-1, leased and under renovation, becoming an Enterprise Car Rental. Sustainable, green development is a goal in addition to the revitalization. Ed's group is hoping to develop guidelines to be the first to fulfill that. Other colleagues, such as Wendy Hoffman, are offering pro bono help to develop a plan and a vision, short and long term, to present to Denver.

Central Platte Valley Improvement

Jerry wasn't present. Barbara said she got some e-mails from him, and he might have to leave town again. The planned ADA ramps project at the W. 23rd Ave. bridge is getting closer but we need contributions of granite fines, etc., and Jerry will be soliciting Aquarium, Invesco, etc. for the expenses, and volunteer labor will have to be lined up. It could be spring before realization. Jerry is persevering. Before the DNC, he contacted many city and state entities in the I-25 area and made them clean up the trash and litter, remove dead trees, etc., to present our city and neighborhood in a better light to visitors.

Old Business

Fundraising is a high priority--we'll be brainstorming on that in the months ahead. Lindsey said we can utilize JPUN happy hours to infuse cash. She's working on our new retail neighbors such as Amlavi and Pilates, getting ad commitments and coupons (Skybox, Jack-N-Grill, etc.) into the newsletter. Bring your creative ideas to the board.

New Business

Rafael's working on a retrospective, "JPUN Then and Now." He'll be putting that together for presentation at the Jan. 6th membership meeting.

Election of 2009 Board of Directors.

Barbara presented a list of candidates. Ballot A was passed out first, listing names for the board, and volunteers were welcomed, per the by-laws. One could add one's own name but not someone else's name. We have 13 volunteers on the list. Attendance is required at 50% of the board meetings (3 meetings per year). Persons can volunteer help with any project. All the names already on list were accepted, plus, in addition, Brent Weakley and Luis Rodriguez volunteered (Brent for treasurer and Luis for Spanish Outreach). Officers were presented on a separate ballot, Ballot B, on which names were listed for several positions, but a co-president opening still remains. There's been some overlap of duties. As former treasurer, Susan will still be keeping our books. Brent will do the other treasurer duties.

In January the board will meet, working with a professional leadership trainer, Kim Collie, in a leadership training session, January 24 or 31, to be determined.

New Officers:

Tom Blyth – co-president
(we still need a co-president)

Joe Boven – vice president (he will still edit the newsletter)
Joan Bancroft – secretary
Brent Weakley – treasurer (Susan will still be involved as well)

2009 Board Members:

Barbara Baker, member at large
Joan Bondy, environment
Ed Keita, special projects
Fred Lai
Esther Meehan, social
Kari-elin Mock
Jerry Olson, Central Platte Valley improvements
Luis E. Rodriguez, Spanish outreach
Daren Schmidt, liaison
David Solomon
Lindsey Shorthouse, social

Meeting adjourned 8:05.