

Drake Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
November 10, 2010 @ 7:00pm

Present: Trish, Dean, Vince, David, Mac, Bill, Dolph, Betsey, Cyndi, Kevin, Deric
Sgt. Mulford, Eric Moore
Guests: Heidi Wessels (NDC), Sarah Battani, Ray Brown, Terry Black

Bill C. Called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Heidi Wessels (NDC) & Sarah Battani gave a short presentation on an upcoming community outreach project.

Ray Brown, owner of Save-A lot food store, is trying to bring it in to the old Top Value store on 6th & University. Also resident of the King Irving neighborhood. Wants to have a portion of the property taxes re-invested into the building so that they can rehabilitate the property, he will be bringing this to the City Council. Gave background info. for the Save-a-lot brand. Joined forces with DMACC on this project; one third of building will go to the Evelyn Davis center run by DMACC, one half will be the grocery store. Gave a very thorough background of himself, was important to him to share with us his character and passion for the neighborhoods in the area. Ray was asked to provide something in writing of what he is asking of the board.

Later in the meeting Bill C. brought this issue up again for discussion. There is other interest in the building but we do not know who. David made a motion that we approve the tax financing per the recent approvals of the council in support of the project proposed by Ray Brown, Dolph seconded, passed with an aye vote.

Neighborhood Revitalization Board (Tim) oversees the neighborhood associations in Des Moines, are currently going through a survey of the neighborhoods to find out if there are things they can do to better serve us. Reviewed the programs they are currently offering. Are involved with NFC and do work with NDC. Supportive of Neighborhood Resource office programs. Want to know what our greatest challenges and concerns in our neighborhood. Deric offered some insight from our latest planning meeting, specifically regarding our need for administrative assistance/ executive management. Also discussed engaging volunteers. Discussed how the diversity/ complexity of the the neighborhood affects our current challenges. Had a list of questions that they went through with us. Went over neighborhood resources available to us like Scrub day, NBSD, etc.

Sgt. Mulford reported a fiscal year comparison. Police dept. will be looking for support on putting up traffic cameras in our neighborhood. Discussed the problem with the school's early outs and the trouble that kids are getting into on Wednesdays. Are now able to take juvenile offenders to Meyer Hall as opposed to the past year when there has been no where else to take them and they end up with no consequences and released to parents.

Eric Moore reported that 17 Critelli properties were sent to legal with a recommendation for the maximum penalty and fine. Critelli come up with a 120 day plan and asked that accelerated inspections be stopped. Critelli says he has involved a silent property management company. Is vacating some properties (1109 26th). Is planning to vacate, bring the property up to compliance, get the rental certificate and then re-rent it. Critelli's manager, Brad Voss, gave his resignation but has been retained by Critelli for a while. 1169 22nd (Marie Apts) is getting 24 hour notice to turn gas back on, has two tenants, if its not turned on, it will be public nuisanced.

Treasurer's Report- Dean emailed it to the board. No questions.

Drake University Report- Dolph reported that Distinctly Drake campaign was kicked off- raising money for scholarships, etc., about 80 million dollars raised so far. Dixie's dry-cleaners, pending approval by P&Z and inspectors, is planing to have the new location open by the end of this month and when she is moved, the two old buildings will be knocked down and will be green space for now. The Ted Turner jazz auditorium is set to be complete sometime this month and will have an open house, then the building at 25th & Forrest (northwest corner) will be knocked down and will be green space. Still feel that there is a perception on campus that this is not a safe neighborhood. Parents calling the Drake University with concerns. Asked that we help to promote the safe image of the neighborhood. Discussed a future meeting that we could come up with ways to positively promote our neighborhood to the students and beyond- showing families that live in the neighborhood.

2121 University Update- Bill C. reported that the City contacted neighborhood groups after the suspension of the liquor license to find out what we thought should be done to make this business better from this a settlement agreement was proposed and was signed last week. The City Council approved the settlement and the suspension on the liquor license has been lifted. Settlement agreement includes: **GET LIST FROM BILL**. If he doesn't comply the city can move to suspend his license again.

Wittmer Park Project Progress- Kevin reported that he designed some landscape plantings for the area so that they could get the grant money spent. They've been able to complete parts of the plan. They asked for an extension on getting the grant money spent and were granted it. James M. is now in charge of the grant and Kendall is working with him. The money will have to be run through the DNA because the city can only write checks to us, not the homeowners.

Board Elections- Bill C. reported that we have two open board positions that are half terms. Mac reported on the three people who have applied for the open positions. We have the following board members that are up for re-election: Betsey, Kendall, Trish, Dean, and Kevin. Discussed the applicants and that they must be members before being elected. Mac moved that the three applicants (names) be put on the slate, Cyndi seconded and passed with an aye vote. Claudia is President elect. Mac moved that Deric be submitted as the next Vice President, Kevin seconded, passed with aye vote.

Deric moved that Jen James and Steve Wilke-Shapiro be the recipients of the Gladys Burkhead Award, Cyndi seconded. Passed with aye vote.

Mac suggested that in the future we have guests on at 8pm so that we can get some of our business done before they come and then we're not rushing through.

Bill C. adjourned the meeting at 9:40pm.