

Lafayette Square Area Coalition Meeting

Date: September 25, 2007

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Westview Healthplex Sports Club

Meeting called by:	Mary Clark	Type of meeting:	Committee Meeting
Facilitator:	Mary Clark	Recording Secretary:	Sue Ann Silva

Guest Speakers: Tammara Tracy, IDMD Scott Rosenberger, Eagledale/Lafayette Square Area Weed & Seed

Agenda

Call to Order: **Mary Clark**

Discussion: Board President, Mary Clark promptly called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. She requested that everyone bring another person to the meetings so that our coalition can grow. The meeting began with our mantra; where do we shop? Answer: The Lafayette Square Area. Ms. Clark reminded everyone that we have to give back to our own by spending money in the area and supporting area neighborhoods, businesses and events. With that in mind, she reminded the Coalition of upcoming meetings and events. On September 27th at 9:00 AM, you are encouraged to attend the crime watch meeting. The meeting will be held at the 56th and Georgetown McDonalds. Please eat at Steak & Shake's West 38th Street location on October 6th from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM. All proceeds go to the "Breakfast with Santa" program. There are vouchers on the information table that you turn in as you pay your bill at Steak & Shake. The vouchers will ensure our organization receives proper credit. Please shop Macy's on October 13th in support of their "Shop for a Cause" project. The West 38th Street O'Charley's Restaurant is remodeling and will reopen its doors on October 17th at 3:00 PM. Please show your support and eat at O'Charley's that day.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Business Spotlight – MCHD: **Representative**

Discussion: No one was present to represent the Marion County Health Department.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Business Spotlight – Sandor Corporation: **Representative**

Discussion: No one was present to represent Sandor Corporation.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Wal-Mart:

Joseph Stephenson

Discussion: Joe Stephenson, a representative from Wal-Mart, conducted a Power Point presentation. The presentation included points on Wal-Mart’s relationship with the community, employee benefits, available positions and the hiring process.

What does the new Wal-Mart mean to the Lafayette Square area and the surrounding community? Wal-Mart offers convenient one-stop shopping, “always low prices” and competitive add matching. Wal-Mart means 300-400 jobs created at the new location alone, tax revenue generated for community services (schools, police, firemen) and community grants (\$29,000 per year). They have a community support program in which five businesses are chosen each quarter for Wal-Mart’s business spotlight. The program is based upon in-store advertising of the other businesses. Finally, it has been proven that Wal-Mart indirectly brings business back into an area by opening up a store. It is a win-win situation for everyone.

Among the reasons he gave for working at Wal-Mart were competitive wages, profit sharing, a 401-K plan, stock ownership, paid vacations, paid holidays, medical coverage, dental coverage and a discount card. Wal-Mart employees get 10% off everything (general merchandise) except for food. The company also offers scholarship bonuses through their Sam Walton Scholarship Foundation. The Sam Walton Scholarship Foundation offers up to \$10,000 every year per store.

What positions will Wal-Mart be hiring for? Some of the positions mentioned were in-stock supervisors, department managers, merchandise supervisors, in-stock fresh teams (produce related), maintenance, service managers, cashiers, etc. There is a lot of opportunity. Over 70% of the management team employees were once hourly employees.

For those who are interested, the hiring kiosk will open to applicants on October 29th at 4407 Lafayette Road. Hours will be 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. Minimum age for applicants is 16 years. The paper application will be given to the personnel manager, who will review its contents and run a background check. If the application passes the first two steps, it will be given to the assistant manager for the first interview. If the applicant reaches the final stages, they have to have two creditable references and submit to a drug test. If hired, the applicant goes through an orientation at the hiring location and, then training at another store. It is a long, but very thorough process.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Neighborhood Hardscapes:

Tammara Tracy

Discussion: Tammara Tracy, Principal Planner for the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development spoke to the Coalition regarding neighborhood sidewalks or the lack thereof. A detailed summary sheet, regarding proposed sidewalk amendments to the zoning ordinances, was distributed.

The condition of the sidewalks or the lack of sidewalks throughout Indianapolis is an important issue. You can travel throughout the Lafayette Square area and find numerous “cow paths” where pedestrians have created their own “dirt” sidewalks. Ms. Tracy shared with the Coalition a proposal to require sidewalks throughout Marion County, which includes Indianapolis. Indianapolis happens to be one of two cities in Indiana’s top twenty that does not require sidewalks (Terre Haute is the other city). The proposal would amend ordinances so that the City of Indianapolis would be brought up to date in regards to this issue.

The details are quite simple. New developments on “raw” ground will be required to put sidewalks along the perimeters of existing streets. Current estimates put that cost at \$25.00 per linear foot. So for every 100 feet of sidewalk there is a cost of \$2,500. For a development, that seems like a reasonably small percentage of the overall development cost.

The real problem or “rub” comes when you require sidewalks for redevelopment projects. Or as a significant improvement to an already developed site. Say someone has a strip center and wants to add another tenant bay onto the end. Is that significant enough to warrant the provision of sidewalks along the frontage of your property? That is where the “devil is in the details”. She asked everyone to review the proposal and ascertain if it addresses all the details. She suggested that everyone review the table at the back of the summary sheet that addresses thresholds for requiring the installation of sidewalks for existing development.

Neighborhood Hardscapes Continued: Tammara Tracy

Our goal was to target significant improvements and, based upon reviewing permit data throughout Marion County, we believe this will address 80% of new structures being built. It would trigger sidewalks to be installed. The sidewalks are very important for two reasons; one, physical activity and two, transportation.

Sidewalks encourage physical activity by providing the opportunity to walk to various destinations easily. They give people a chance to walk more and a place to walk and jog safely. It allows people to expand their sphere of travel within the community. That is good for neighborhoods and businesses alike.

Regarding transportation, Pike Township has the highest number of Indy Go users. When the Indy Go riders are let off at their destination, many are let off in a ditch or on one of the “cow paths”. The unfortunate lack of sidewalks does not encourage people to take public transportation.

In answer to what is the City of Indianapolis bringing to the table, Ms. Tracy stated that Mayor Bart Peterson, just this year, allocated more money toward areas in need of sidewalks. Every time the City of Indianapolis does a major improvement to a thoroughfare, the City will also put in sidewalks. The City will be meeting the same commitment as the developers within the community.

In response to whether concrete or asphalt is better, Ms. Tracy replied that concrete lasts 10-15 years, but asphalt has a much shorter life of 2-3 years. As a result, the use of concrete avoids the higher maintenance and replacement costs.

Board Member, Clint Fultz commented that this program/proposal is about connectivity; connecting the members of our community. It is about being able to get to your destinations safely without being exposed to heavy traffic. It is about the feeling of connectivity to the rest of the community. Ms. Tracy concurred that it is about having the same advantage in our larger community that we have in many of our residential subdivisions where sidewalks are a requirement. People want that same convenience once they venture out of their own neighborhood.

The proposal has not been scheduled as of date, but Ms. Tracy anticipates for it to go before the commission within the next month. She challenged each person present to thumb through the proposal. If anyone has positive or negative feedback regarding the proposal, please let her know. They may contact her at TTracy@IndyGov.org.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Indiana Math & Science Academy: Mary Clark

Discussion: Board President, Mary Clark announced that the Indiana Math & Science Academy is looking for a person to serve on their board. For information on the academy, please check out their website at www.imsaindy.org If anyone is interested in serving on their board, please contact them directly at (317) 298-0025.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Westview Healthplex Appreciation Day: Judy Donner

Discussion: Board Vice President, Judy Donner suggested that those who had not had a chance to take a look at Westview Healthplex do so. They will find that it is a wonderful facility. She announced that today and tomorrow are member appreciation days at Westview Healthplex Sports Club. In recognition of that, anyone who wants to join tonight may enroll for only \$49.00. You will also receive 50% off on your first month of club dues. Please see Membership Services on the first floor.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Certified Public Accountant: Mary Clark

Discussion: The Coalition is in need of a Certified Public Accountant on a volunteer basis. We received a letter back from the IRS stating that we did not follow the guidelines correctly. We are not going to be penalized for the mistake, but we need some volunteer guidance going forward. If anyone is interested or knows someone who might be interested, please have them contact the Board of Directors.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Community Shred Day: Mary Clark

Discussion: There are flyers on the information table announcing Community Shred Day on October 6th between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Please pick one up on your way out this evening. Take all your personal documents to the Speedway Police Department at 1410 North Lynhurst Drive. For a \$5.00 per box donation, which benefits Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana, you can have your personal papers shredded while you watch.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Weed & Seed: Scott Rosenberger

Discussion: Scott Rosenberger, who is the newly appointed Site Coordinator for the Eagledale/Lafayette Square Area Weed & Seed, spoke to the Coalition regarding crime prevention. To keep within the time constraints, Mr. Rosenberger distributed packets with more detailed information for later reading.

Back in January 2006, Barbara Rogers who was with IPD, which is now INPD, spoke at a meeting of the Eagledale Neighborhood Association. After hearing what Ms. Rogers had to say, regarding Weed & Seed, they invited her to speak to the Board. Mr. Rosenberger was an advisor to the Board of Directors at that time. After hearing Ms. Rogers speak, he volunteered to get the program up and running in the Eagledale area.

In June 2006 they sent a letter of intent to the Justice Department and, followed that with a grant application. From that, they were awarded a one million dollar grant, but must continue to show progress and that the funds are being utilized appropriately. The funds are to be distributed over a five year period. Since it is a Justice Department program and law enforcement centered, half of the money will go to law enforcement. INPD will have a lot of input as to how the money is spent. The other half of the grant money will go into the Seed side of the program. Area business/community leaders and residents will have a great deal of input on how that portion is spent.

There are four areas in which they have to show progress. They are 1) law enforcement, 2) community policing strategy, 3) prevention, intervention and treatment and 4) neighborhood restoration. Law enforcement and community policing strategy are on the Weed side. Prevention, intervention and treatment and neighborhood restoration are on the Seed side of the program.

Weed & seed has been around in Indianapolis since 1995. The Eagledale/Lafayette Square Area is now the 8th site, but is the first site not in the inner ring (inner city) of Indianapolis.

Regarding meetings, the Weed Sub-Committee meeting is tomorrow night, September 26th, at the INPD Northwest District Headquarters. Their address is 3821 Industrial Boulevard. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. The Seed Sub-Committee meeting is schedule for Tuesday, October 2 at the Covenant Baptist Church, which is located at 4201 West 30th Street (30th & Falcon Road). The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 PM. As they are just getting started, the meetings will be primarily organizational. Both Mr. Rosenberger and Mary Clark encouraged everyone to attend and share their input.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

State Representative:**Jeb Bardon**

Discussion: Mary Clark introduced Jeb Bardon, Indiana State Representative. Mr. Bardon reported that he met with several people, including Mary Clark, Judy Donner and various representatives from the City of Indianapolis. A representative from Lowe's was present. Lowe's is looking for opportunities in the area. The group shared ideas, made suggestions and, hopefully, opened up opportunities for Lowe's and the community. It was a very positive meeting.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Finance:**Bob Snelling**

Discussion: Board Member and Finance Committee Chair, Bob Snelling reported that there has been little activity over the last couple of months. The Coalition has had \$75.00 come in and \$35.00 go out. That leaves our current balance at \$21,737.20.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Membership:**Brooke Dunn**

Discussion: Brooke Dunn reported that there are approximately 90 members. Several members will receive their renewal invoices soon. Please be on the lookout for the invoices.

If anyone is interested in joining the Coalition or joining the Membership Committee, please contact her via the Lafayette Square Area Coalition website. Also, please encourage others within the community to join.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Website:**Mark Killgo**

Discussion: Board Member, Mark Killgo informed the Coalition that the website had been rebuilt. While the appearance of the website has not changed, there is a big change to the functionality of the site. People interested in becoming a member can now go to the website and join online. They can print out the membership form/questionnaire and mail it in. In the meantime, they have automatically been added to the membership directory. You can now communicate with Board Members more easily by clicking on the email logo beside any name, which will automatically open up your browser to that Board Member's email address. If you want to record the email addresses for any Board Member, it is just the first name, last initial @lafayettesquareareacoalition.org. We now have the ability to automatically post our meeting minutes on the website. So you will be able to go to the website to review the minutes. Another user friendly option, is business members' logo are posted on the website. You can click on their logo to get information and directions.

Mr. Killgo encouraged members to start using the forum on the website to share their opinions and ideas. He likened it to an "electronic sidewalk" that connects us to each other.

Action items: N/A

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Crime Prevention:		Mark Killgo	
Discussion: Mr. Killgo reported that he is trying to organize a Crime Prevention Committee Meeting at his store on October 9 th at 6:30 PM. Please feel free to attend. His store, Computer Overdrive, is located at 3851 Georgetown Road.			
Action items: N/A		Person responsible:	Deadline:

Events:		Mary Chalmers	
Discussion: Board Member, Mary Chalmers stated the Events Committee has been busy planning the Taste the Difference, Explore the Cultural Diversity of the Lafayette Square Area event. To help fund the event, they wrote a grant application to GINI for one of the Imagine Grants. The grants are up to \$5,000 with a \$5,000 match. Feedback has been very positive. They should know the official results by Friday, September 28 th .			
The event is scheduled to start on November 13 th and go through November 18 th . They have twenty restaurants participating as of this date. The restaurants are agreeing to have special prices for both lunch and dinner during the event week. GINI and the Indiana Resource Center like the event idea so much that they are discussing having us join their kickoff event for Great Indy Neighborhoods recipients. The kickoff, which we have agreed to co-host, is going to be held at the Georgetown Cinema around 6:00 PM on November 12 th . The final decision will follow at a later date.			
Board President, Mary Clark commented that we are inviting all of Indianapolis to come celebrate the diversity that the Lafayette Square Area has to offer on the above dates. Posters and brochures with maps are being printed to spread the word. In addition, co-hosting the kick-off with Great Indy Neighborhoods will give our event the media attention it needs and deserves.			
Action items: N/A		Person responsible:	Deadline:

Business Spotlight Drawing:		Mary Clark	
Discussion: Business cards were accepted, but the actual drawing did not take place during the meeting. The businesses that will be spotlighted will be listed on the agenda for the October Coalition Meeting.			
Action items: N/A		Person responsible:	Deadline:

LSAC October Meeting:		Mary Clark	
Discussion: The October meeting of the Coalition will be held on Tuesday, October 30, 2007.			
Action items: N/A		Person responsible:	Deadline:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.