

CANA Membership Meeting

7:00 pm Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Firefighters’ Union Hall

Sally Spiers called the meeting to order at 7:01.

Minutes from the July 28th membership meeting were approved as submitted.

**Candidates**

Sally Spiers announced that we hold the candidate meeting in September so that people may have more information prior to voting.

1. Mayor of Indianapolis
   1. Republican Chuck Brewer
      1. Chuck Brewer addressed the group and talked about being a small business owner of a few downtown restaurants, and he mentioned the benefits of being a downtown business owner in that it enabled him to understand the operations and needs of downtown.
      2. He is a military veteran who decided to become an entrepreneur. As he learned about the city and its operations, he wanted to become involved in politics. He realized the fragility of the city and the need to address some of the financing concerns that impact city priorities. He said that it is hard to manage the 13th largest city when we spend more than we collect, and that we cannot always do what we want to meet our priorities because we’re stretched. Managing it requires a little creativity and an understanding of business. He believes he has the skillset to meet the city needs.

**Q&A**

* A question was raised regarding parking issues and how they would be addressed. Brewer answered that it is a common problem as the neighborhoods develop. As new complexes are developed, parking is not always addressed. A couple potential things the city can do include implementing permit parking and ticketing those without permits, requiring developers to include a plan for parking (garages). This is strictly an economic and planning process for which the city needs to be accountable.
* A question was raised regarding where Brewer stands in relation to support of transit efforts. Brewer answered that he supports the city’s initiatives. He stated that he believes in order to be a great city, you need solutions for people to get to job opportunities throughout the city. If Indy is going to have mass transit, it has to be approved by a referendum and approved by the residents. Mass transit systems are often subsidized; “if we are going to raise taxes to support these systems, they need to be sustainable...Proposals need to be well planned and the investment has to be wise,” said Brewer.
* A question was raised regarding how we move forward with the criminal justice system issues. Brewer answered that there have been issues in relation to financing the changes that are needed. While a Public Private Partnership put together an efficient proposal, there are still financing challenges. Brewer said, “I will commit to you that we will get this going again and that we will get this done.” He said that we need to do it for safety purposes and work through the financing.
  1. Democrat Joe Hogsett (Invited)
     1. Sally Spiers announced that Joe Hogsett had been invited to speak; however, he did not reply.
     2. Since Joe could not be here, Sally announced that Zach Adamson would speak on his behalf.
     3. Zach said that he has known Joe for years, and that he is a practical man. His experience working with the current administration is that it has been all about politics, getting wrapped up in processes, etc. Shortsightedness has been a problem of the current administration, creating political barriers, etc. As far as Joe, he can’t speak to his mission; however, he believes that Joe can avoid the barriers that come with getting too overly political.

1. City-County Council District 17
   1. Democrat Zach Adamson

Has lived in the current 16th district (soon to be 17th District) for many years and has been a small business owner for 18 years. He has served on the board of directors for his neighborhood association Holy Cross-Westminster and the Near Eastside Community Organization (NESCO) and also served as the Vice President for NESCO. His other board responsibilities got him involved in economic development and community development-related supports. He also chairs the Public Works Committee. In regards to Zach’s position on BlueIndy, given his leftist position, he is very supportive of the car share program and believes it is critical to the city’s development.

* 1. Republican Sally Spiers

Sally Spiers said that she is running for city council for three reasons. She believes in the two-party system, and she believes that you need a choice. While there is a democratic majority, she wants there to be choice, as the decision belongs to the people.

Spiers announced that she is republican, and it’s important to note that they come in all shapes and sizes. She is republican because of economic freedom, defense, and it is all about finding better, more efficient ways of doing things. She is also running to pitch her candidate for Mayor. There are big differences in HOW decisions are made, and she believes that Chuck Brewer is stronger. She asks that everyone please consider the candidates and at least vote. There are differences in style that do make differences. The election is important to the future of Indianapolis.

Q&A

* There was a question raised regarding Zach’s thoughts on the potential Mayoral candidates and the need to avoid being overly political:
  + Zach Adamson said that regardless of the two, it would be important to not create a situation where the environment becomes a vacuum.
  + Sally Spiers replied that she believes the current mayor himself is not overly political, but that he’s responded to a democratic council that has created tension. It is partly the give and take. The two candidates coming up are very different
* What is the current plan for public transportation?
  + Zach Adamson replied that it is one component of a larger plan. He thinks that it would be better to expand it east where more needs are and that it would be better to do something other than a spoke and steel method—perhaps create nodes around the city to link it; that’s what he’d like to see. MRT line is also filling in gaps, from his understanding. Mayor and council plan to fix the referendum process

**New Business**

**New residences seeking approval**

1. 705 N. East St. (Bruce & Julie Buchanan residence)
   1. Jason, Bruce’s architect, brought drawings of his plans to distribute. They are working with the same company that has developed other residences on Walnut.
   2. There was an agreement worked out so that the new residence could be accessible through the alley. The plan is to bring the cars into the garage off of the alley so that the garage does not have to face the street.
   3. The design of the house was meant to optimize the long lot.
   4. The style of the house is contemporary classic, masonry materials of limestone and brick
   5. Sally Spiers noted that Urban Design recommended approval.
   6. Bruce Buchanan added that they have spoken to other neighbors about their plans and have acquired approvals/letters of recommendations.

Sally Spiers asked for a motion to approve support of the project. Motion to move approval was received, seconded, and ultimately approved.

1. 628 East Street (Eppler residence)
   1. Ed Eppler’s architect came to represent plans for the 628 East Street residence.
   2. Has received approval/letters of recommendation from neighbors.
   3. Since the residence is next to Union 50, Eppler desires a more private outdoor space. The garage is currently positioned so that it requires driving through Union 50 parking lot. The plan is to flip the garage to a West entry. This will create more green space and create a barrier to Union 50 and provide more privacy on the south side of the house.
   4. Again, Urban Design recommends supporting the changes.
2. Sally Spiers asked for a motion to approve support of the project. Motion to move approval was received, seconded, and ultimately approved.

**Reports**

1. IMPD – Kimberly Evans
   1. IndyGo update:
      * Kimberly Evans had a meeting with IndyGo CEO and asked them to come to the taskforce meeting on the 10th at the Central Library where they are going to show drawings and renderings of the new IndyGo station as well as discuss bus routes and how things will fun in the future. Kimberly encouraged people to come.
      * The new station has a goal of being up and running by June 2016
   2. Crime stats

* There have been two vandalisms—convertibles with top cut and other damage
* There was a robbery at 10th and College at the bus stop. Someone pointed a gun and demanded money from a man on Sept 3rd.
* There was a burglary at the 900 block of N East Street at Midwest Uplink (911 N East Street).
* A question was raised regarding parking enforcement – Kimberly Evans advised that with RPP parking, that you need to give it time. Once people receive tickets or get towed, they learn. Giving it three or four months will allow the changes to be learned. Also, she advised people to call and let her officers know if there are problems; they cannot resolve problems that they don’t know about. She also reported that her team does not have a lot of resources, as the lower amount of crime does not warrant more officers.

Drawing speaker: Regina Mehallick

* The long-time owner of R Bistro addressed the neighborhood to talk about her newest venture—R2GO. She transitioned by mentioning that some of her customers complain about how parking has become more difficult; however, she learned that her customers can park behind trailside for free after 5 PM.
* R2GO—located at 1101 N College Ave—has been open since mid-December. It offers meats and cheeses, jar and tinned items, local Indiana products, local baked bread, eggs, milk, Indiana peanut butter and nut butter products, and artisanal, Indiana products. She makes sandwiches, and customers may get some of the same former R Bistro lunch sandwiches.
* She has a full commercial kitchen where she makes to-go meals for sale—entrees, salads, etc.
* Cooking classes are offered twice a month.
* She can provide catering if neighbors need a meat or cheese plate.
* Sally Spiers added that both businesses are members of the association and support our neighborhood.

1. Wine Tasting Party – Doug Steen

There are about 17 open spots left out of 40 available. The cost is $25 per person, and the event is October 10th from 3:00 -5:00 PM. There will be four purveyors. Bring check or cash day-of. Don’t have to be a Chatham Arch neighbor; Doug encouraged people to bring friends and family.

1. Fall Neighborhood Cleanup

Sally Spiers announced that the city has scheduled neighborhood cleanups in October. Sally wanted to gauge member interest of having a cleanup in the fall and asked whether someone would be willing to coordinate it. Sally clarified that it doesn’t have to be a set date and that it could take place any Saturday in October. Dan Johnson offered to coordinate to make reservations with the city and chose October 24th as the date for the event.

1. Other:
   1. Sally Spiers announced the transition from Sarah Anderson to Sarah Andrews as Secretary.
   2. Treasurer’s report from Steve Thornton: Current funds sit at $32,468.43. Expenses have exceeded our income by over $6,000, largely due to our street sign project.
   3. Update on Street Signs- report by Annie Lear, President of the Foundation
      * Street signs- vendor says that they should be starting on Monday. What is in place now will be replaced by nicer poles and signs. She also reminded that as an opportunity to contribute to the foundation, you can purchase signs to place in your window. Large signs are $50 and small signs are $30.
      * Annie Lear also announced that another alley will be restored this year and will be designed like the alley near the firehouse. The foundation entered into an agreement with the city to move forward with this design. City will do “in-kind” services with surveying, etc., and foundation will take it from there.
      * A question was raised about the status of the firefighter credit union addition. The fence will go up Monday and work will begin a week later. The original date was set for Sept 29th of 2016. Their original discussion of how long it would take was 7-8 months.
      * A question was raised regarding alleys and whether they have names and will get signs. Annie Lear responded that—yes, all the alleys have street names, but some are marked and some are not. The ones that have signs now will have new signs, and they hope to better represent them over time.
      * Ideas were posed regarding pedestrian-level signs that report the “old” street names, alley names, etc.
      * There will be entry signs into the neighborhood to help identify Chatham Arch.
   4. October agenda topics
      * Sally Spiers announced that the parking committee will report findings, solutions by other neighborhoods and cities, and other data on the parking situation at the October meeting. They will present this information and drive the discussion on where to go from here.
        1. Barb Tegarden announced that she will be going around to neighbors to fill in gaps from those that were not reached through the online survey. They want to create as complete a picture as possible.
        2. A suggestion was posted to ask the new apartment developers to include parking in the rent cost instead of making it optional, as it causes residents to opt to try and find street parking. Sally Spiers updated that we haven’t yet approached Circa to ask them to make those changes in the rent.
      * Sally Spiers also announced that another item for the October meeting is the election of nominating committee for the CANA Board. Each year half of the board is elected—six for this year. This year there will be vacancies due to term limits and a few who are interested in stepping down for a while. A nominating committee to develop the slate for the board needs to be elected by the next meeting, and Sally asked interested individuals to email her.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.**