



Chatham Arch Neighborhood Association

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

6:30 pm – Social Gathering

7:00 pm – Business Meeting

Firefighters Union Hall, 748 Massachusetts Avenue

Attendees: Lynn Pike, Sally Spiers, Don Hanlin, Linda Hughes, Gary Agee, Coleen Agee, Sarah Anderson, David Pflugh, Barb Tegarden, Steve Tegarden, John Hall, Penny Hall, Ann Moore, Tom Schaefer, Nancy Schaefer, Teresa Powell, Marilyn Overton, Chris Aiello, Tom Hanify, Larry Cleaver, Walter Bartz, Mike White, Kim Evans, Carolyn Buckner, Steve Thornton, Dan Johnson, Tom Elkas, Steven Fabio, Mark Harvey, Jerry Lamkin, David Kingen, Annie Lear, Clay Miller

Sally Spiers called the meeting to order at 7:02.

Approval of Minutes

Don Hanlin moved to approve, Tom Elkas seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

Zion Church's electronic sign proposal: David Kingen of Neighborhood/Downtown Zoning Assistance Inc. presented, joined by Marilyn Overton and Jerry Lamkin, members of the church. David reported that Zion has a pending issue before IHPC and is seeking support prior to their May 6th presentation for the installation of an electronic sign at the location of their current sign. Documents provided show the location of church and current signage (which dates back to the 1930s). The historic sign structure would remain as is, only the insert would change. The electronic insert would include static text of the name of the church and white text that would be variable to convey messages to the membership and the public (displayed in orange and green on the distributed diagram). The sign would be on the southwest corner of the property.

Portions of the sign are actually in the public right of way, so they will get an encroachment license so they can legally keep the sign there.

David shared that the church has a great deal of difficulty conveying to the public all of the activities going on within the church and the neighborhood. The church has had to resort to banners for short periods to advertise events, and they have committed that they would no longer use the banners if they have an electronic sign board. David shared a list of other churches that have electronic sign boards, but he cautioned against comparison to those, as Zion has committed to strict commitments in accordance with IHPC restrictions.

Attachment D details those commitments, including no scrolling, flashing or animation. Each message would be displayed for no less than 60 seconds with fade in and fade out. 80 percent of the time that the sign is on, it will feature the church hours. The grant of this signage would be exclusive to the church, so if the church were to sell the property, the variance would go away.

The sign faces the Old National Center, which recently got approval to upgrade its own lighting on the property. It should have no real effect on existing residences, though it could affect new residences. However, it will not be flashing or shown during the night.

The packet also included three letters of support from Jerry Lamkin, Wayne Schmidt and Brian Payne. David shared that Zion was a pillar in the establishment of Riley Area when many other churches had departed the area. They have been instrumental in the redevelopment of Mass Ave.

Jerry Lamkin urged support from CANA and noted the historic significance of the church to the community.

Sally Spiers noted that Zion is a member of CANA.

Steve Thornton asked about the purpose of the sign and its potential to be used to direct people to the church's parking lot for events. He noted that the commitments say that it would not be used for advertising. Does that include parking?

David said that they will not be selling or allowing advertising to businesses, but it will be used for church events, Murat events and parking.

The proposal has gone back to the Urban Design Committee and addressed their questions.

Steve Tegarden raised concerns about the billboard ordinance, noting that it was not related to Zion's proposal. He asked if the church has taken a position and said it would be helpful for Zion to make the distinction in their proposal and declare opposition to the ordinance, as the neighborhood has.

Marilyn noted that the Zion board will take that into consideration.

Steve Tegarden moved to endorse the application for the electronic sign, and Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

Annual Block Party: Sally Spiers reported that the annual block party will take place on May 9th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, with other dishes (and alcohol) provided by attendees. There will be a silent auction and activities for children. If neighbors have auction item donations, please let Sally know. This is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year. There is a signup sheet for helping with various responsibilities, including set up, take down, etc.

Clay Miller will host a walking tour of the neighborhood prior to the party, beginning at 5:00..

The Lois Bartz award will be given out during the event to honor a neighbor.

CANA Calendar: Sally reported that CANA did not have a fundraiser in 2014, and the board has discussed other ideas that are less event-focused. Previous years have included Christmas ornaments and tote bags. This year, we will be developing a Chatham Arch calendar, inviting photos from neighbors of why they love living here and what makes the neighborhood unique. Meeting dates and other events would be included on the calendar, which would sell for \$20.

CANA will aim to have them available by October for purchase, and will set up an email address to submit photos.

Street Signs: Sally reported that CANA has long talked about branding/identification for Chatham Arch and have a new proposal in the works for neighborhood-branded street signs. Annie Lear presented the vision, which CANF and CANA have been working with the city to develop. Lockerbie has branded street signs that they got 10 years ago. IHPC does not have

an issue with Chatham Arch doing the signs as long as it meets DPW's approval. Annie met with DPW yesterday; they are checking on some regulations.

Annie shared two potential schematics for green or gray branding. They would swap out any smaller standalone or banded signs. CANA and CANF have discussed splitting the cost, and seeking a MAC grant for half of the total price. We are also planning for five 16X20 signs at prominent neighborhood entrances and exits.

The CANA portion would be about \$8,000 if we get the grant, well within the Association's means.

Tom Hanify expressed his support for the plan. Neighbors could potentially "adopt" a sign.

Old Business:

Fundraisers: Sally reported that there are two fundraiser ideas from last year that have carried over into this year. The first is a fall wine tasting party in the fall. If you are interested in helping with that, we need some assistance on the steering committee.

The home tour has been a longstanding fundraiser to boost visibility and raise funds, and we need a committee chair. Sally asked whether we need to continue holding a home tour given the increased visibility of the neighborhood.

Parking: Sally reported that the parking committee is being resurrected and will have an organizational meeting soon. Lynn Pike, Dan Johnson and Don Hanlin are interested.

Downtown Indy is also doing a study on parking in the area. Annie noted that people parking who are going to work on Mass Ave are crowding the interior streets. Barb Tegarden noted that St. Clair should not have parking from East to Park, and Annie noted that there is a proposal before the city council to restrict parking there.

Officer Kimberly Evans added that residents can email her with intersections or areas that are problematic. They will study accidents and have been able to get restrictions in place.

Crime Report: IMPD Officer Kimberly Evans gave an update on crime in the area. She pulled crime data for the last 30 days here and in surrounding areas. Thefts from vehicles have been a repetitive issue in the area, with some visitors to the area not being aware of the need to be cautious. Along the 400 block of E. 10th and 800 of N. Park have both had issues. She urged neighbors to lock vehicles and not leave valuables inside.

Last week, there was a burglary, forced entry, in 300 block of St. Clair. The door was kicked in while the resident was not home. IMPD got finger prints and are hoping for a match. This occurred during the day, but no one heard or saw anything. She urged us to know our neighbors and keep an eye out.

In response to riots in Baltimore, Officer Evans noted that we are not immune but are proud of our strong community relationships and transparency of the police department. IMPD is holding a talk on May 12th at Central Library on the second floor to talk about how the department responds to active shooter situations and other similar issues.

Graffiti is also a big issue. Officer Evans noted various areas that had been tagged and said they are working with the gang unit to get intelligence on who the taggers are.

Fletcher Place had an issue with a vehicle stolen at a gas station with three children inside, so she asked neighbors not to leave children or pets unattended in vehicles, and always lock your car.

Roger and Donna Neu offered to step up to organize a crime watch. On May 12th, we will go through the neighborhood to gauge interest. You can express interest by emailing Sally or Roger or Donna Neu.

Firefighters: Tom Hanify introduced Mike White, from the credit union board, who is working on building the credit union. He reported that, after a long process, they finally came to an agreement with the city, and none of those plans have changed. Construction on the new property will start late summer (August), and in the transaction, they did acquire the IPS lot on the west side of College. Long term, they do not yet have plans for the property. Short term, during construction, they hope to use the lot for keeping equipment. They will also be maintaining that lot. Workers will also use the lot for their vehicles during construction. This will likely be a 12-month construction timeframe.

Tom Hanify gave an updated on union hall and parking lot. They are a little behind schedule with design issues, but the design has been approved with IHPC. They made a commitment to the Fringe to use the building in the summer, so they're eager to get started. On the hall, he noted that someone has approached them about adding a third story, which they are considering. This change would need design review with the neighborhood and IHPC, so they will be going through those steps if they decide to do it. They were hoping to build in conjunction with the credit union, but that may not be feasible.

Membership: Sally reported that CANA has 75 individual members, 4 associate members, 2 associate business members and 12 business members. Sally sent a reminder to last year's members.

Finance: Steve reported the CANA bank balance as of end of March was \$39,271.69.

Membership reminders have been bringing in additional cash. Expenses have been normal operations, neighborhood cleanup and block party. He encouraged neighbors to bring their checkbooks to the block party.

Foundation: If you have a street light that is out, there is an ID number on the pole, and you can go online at IPLindy.com to report an outage. They respond quickly. This helps with security.

Clay noted that the electric bill doesn't go down when lights aren't working.

UDC/IHPC: No report

MAMA: Barb Tegarden reported on the upcoming Tour de Tire. Merchants have created art, and there are ballots to vote for your favorite. Mass Ave. Wine has a May 9 wine tasting for \$10 just before the block party (4 p.m.).

Other: Ann Moore reported that Kristin Divers will have artwork at the Harrison Art Center this first Friday. Many are of Chatham Arch.

Clay Miller noted that the city has been meeting about the emerald ash borer that has now reached Center Township. There is a town hall meeting at KIB on Tuesday, May 12, with experts from Purdue to talk about treatments available to help protect the tree canopy.

Sally noted that the next meeting will be July 28th. If needed, we may have one in June. May 9th is the block party. May 5th is primary election day.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13.