

ARDEN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD
December 6, 2011, ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Board Members:

Gene Valanzano, President
Irene Stevens, Vice President
Melissa Kerker, Interim Secretary
Tracy Hinshaw Chandler, Treasurer
Jean Deeds
Gus Lemcke
Alan Nelson
Ed Smith

Committees

Communications – Melissa Kerker
Crime Watch – Jean Deeds
Landscape – Gus Lemcke
Membership – Irene Stevens
Preservation/Welcome – Ed Smith
Social – Laurie Schumacher
Broad Ripple Nbhd. Assn. Liaison –
Alan Nelson

Board meeting called to order at 6:50 p.m. before the Annual Meeting. Board Members present: Gene Valanzano, Tracy Hinshaw Chandler, Melissa Kerker, Ed Smith, Jean Deeds

Board Business Reports

Approval of meeting minutes of November 1, 2011

Melissa Kerker, interim Secretary electronically forwarded to the board members draft minutes of the November 1, 2011 meeting. Ms. Kerker made suggested changes and presented the final draft this day to the Board for approval. The meeting minutes were adjusted as requested.

Motion: Approve November 1, 2011 meeting minutes—Jean Deeds

Seconded: Tracy Hinshaw Chandler

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Approved: November 1, 2011 meeting minutes

Treasurer's Report

Tracy Hinshaw Chandler distributed the November 2011 Budget. Ms. Chandler stated that we were a little over budget on the adult party and under budget on the kids party. Therefore we were under budget overall for the parties. The report showed an Operating Budget for November of \$5433.77. Ms. Chandler stated that three Paypal dues came in: two for \$25 and one for \$50.

Motion: Approve the November 2011 Treasurer's Report – Jean Deeds

Seconded: Melissa Kerker

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Approved: November 2011 Treasurer's Report

Business report concluded at 6:55 p.m.

2011 Annual Meeting

Special guest, Tom Healy, Broad Ripple Village Association

Mr. Valanzano opened the meeting by introducing himself as President of the Arden Neighborhood Association Board and welcoming our special guest from the Broad Ripple Village Association, Tom Healy.

Mr. Healy shared information about his role on the board of the BRVA and the work they do with the city of Indianapolis. Mr. Healy reported that the median at 65th and College Avenue was voted by Keep Indianapolis Beautiful as the top landscaped median in the city.

The Envision Broad Ripple organization is holding their 25th session in January. They are working with the Department of Metropolitan Development to help maintain the village character of Broad Ripple by creating a new neighborhood village zoning category. Under this new zoning proposal, Broad Ripple would be categorized as a "Neighborhood Village 1." This is another planning tool the Envision Broad Ripple group is working on to maintain and add to the village's character.

Mr. Healy talked about BRVA's other initiatives in 2011 including the newly designed crosswalks in the village and moving toward an even more walkable, bikeable village.

The new bike lanes on Broad Ripple Avenue were discussed. Mr. Healy stated there was more work to do including getting the traffic lights synchronized. Additionally sensors will be put in the street to help move traffic more efficiently. The goal of the bike lanes was obviously to get more people on bikes, but also to "calm" traffic.

A connectivity path is slated to be built on 62nd Street from Keystone Avenue to Allisonville Road. This bike path will be a totally separate trail built on the Southside of the road to connect with the Allisonville bike trail. Mr. Healy said the city is continually looking for alternatives to single-person auto traffic.

Another exciting project is the Art2Art Trail. This trail will formalize the connection between the IMA and the Indianapolis Art Center. Plans include benches, additional public safety lighting and of course art. A park-like atmosphere is planned along the canal from College Avenue to the Monon Trail including additional lighting. Mr. Healy reported that the BRVA was able to get the hours of use extended for the Monon Trail.

Plans are moving forward on a mixed-use parking structure at College Avenue and Westfield/Broad Ripple Avenue. The BRVA asked for a unique, mixed-use structure as it will be a gateway to the village. Public money is being used and the ground breaking is scheduled for spring 2012.

The iconic Fire Station 32 in Broad Ripple was named on the National Register of Historic Places this past year thanks to the efforts of the BRVA. The association is looking to do this with other buildings in the village.

Mr. Healy spoke a little about Kilroy's Bar trying to make its way into the old Cardinal Fitness in Broad Ripple. According to research by Envision Broad Ripple, people in the village really want to see more businesses catering to the morning, midday and early evening hours. Kilroy's doesn't fit this model. He said we're well served by the late night crowds. The BRVA has been fighting Kilroy's and the decision now stands with the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission.

According to Mr. Healy, Broad Ripple is a satellite site for the Super Bowl. He said that Broad Ripple Avenue from College Avenue to Guilford Avenue will be closed for approximately 4 to 5 days during Super Bowl weekend.

Mr. Healy took questions from the floor. A question was asked regarding the abandoned Shell station on College Avenue. Mr. Healy said that a small boutique hotel development has been brought up and that a mixed use site would go nicely with the canal work to be done. To date, no plans have been formalized. Discussions about previously released plans to build a small hotel on Westfield were mentioned. Mr. Healy said the developer ran into financing and insurance issues unfortunately.

Jean Deeds, CrimeWatch Coordinator

Ms. Deeds passed out the annual CrimeWatch report and stated that if audience members are not getting CrimeWatch tips and alerts, please get in touch with the Block Captain. She also suggested giving her name and email address information to forward to Block Captains. Block Captains only use email addresses to send CrimeWatch information.

Ms. Deeds stated that the police say don't hesitate to call 911. Police say when something in our gut says something isn't right, please call. It's the best way to catch criminals.

Regarding the annual crime report for Arden, the first half of the year was pretty quiet. Unfortunately, things picked up a bit around July 19, 2011. Starting in July Arden had a few burglaries and larcenies. Then in October and November there was a flurry of break-ins.

A new neighbor from Arden Drive shared that two of those burglaries were at the house she is renovating. She wanted to allay fears that this was random. The robbers only wanted tools. They even came back a second night and stole the tools they couldn't get the night before.

Ms. Deeds presented Ann Duck with the "Nosy Neighbor Award" for her diligence in helping keep our neighborhood safe.

Ms. Deeds impressed upon everyone to know your neighbors and their cars. She also wanted to thank reserve police officer, neighbor and ANA Board Member, Alan Nelson for the amazing help he gives to this neighborhood. Mr. Nelson was not at the meeting, but will receive an award signed by the North District of IMPD.

Gene Valanzano, ANA Board President

Mr. Valanzano started with a couple of raffles, including 2-\$10 certificates to Lilly Orchard, a \$25 gift certificate to Foot Finesse, and a \$25 gift certificate to Rusted Moon.

Mr. Valanzano shared what the Arden Neighborhood Association Board accomplished in 2011. Obviously, CrimeWatch is an important focus for our neighborhood and will be continued. A couple of things came up this year that many neighbors may not have been aware of.

The new BP Station

Alan Nelson, ANA Board Member and reserve police officer brought to the Board's attention gang-related graffiti, and questionable items being sold in the BP station, including "relaxation brownies," Chore-boy pot scrubbers (used to clean drug pipes), apparel that was color-patterned as gang related, and zig-zag papers. The Board contacted the Meridian Hills and Williams Creek police and their neighborhood boards and contacted the owner. We met with the owner and we're pleased to report that everything has been cleaned up there.

Spruce-Ups

The Spruce-Up events have been a great success in helping keep Arden looking great. Thanks go out to Gus Lemcke for leading the charge there.

Parties

Once again the ANA sponsored the Annual 4th of July parade, the fall party for adults and the Halloween party for kids. Two neighbors were recognized for their efforts. Meredith and Andy Lough received the Good Neighbor Award for opening up their yard and their coordination efforts for the 4th of July parade and party, and the Halloween party. Also, the Board also recognized Mike Vance for continuing to provide a great venue for our adult fall party.

Arden Drive Riverbank

Late last fall Mr. Valanzano, Jean Deeds and Gus Lemcke met with the city to discuss clean up along the riverbank, including removing invasive plants. The city said that funds would be available in the spring of 2012. Instead the city came through this summer and did a massive spraying and then did another spraying. The plan was to just leave the dead plants alone. The Board expressed our neighborhood's displeasure with this plan and the city came through and cut down a portion of the dead plants along the top of the riverbank.

Additionally, at Central and Arden part of the riverbank collapsed. The city came in and did a cheap fix. Once again, we expressed our disappointment with the fix through our contacts with the city. We were able to have the city come back out and rebuild the bank a bit and provide a somewhat nicer fix to the problem.

Mr. Valanzano continued the raffle by pulling a number for the \$25 Northside Kitchenette gift certificate.

Plans for 2012

Based on the electronic survey responses received in the summer of 2011, there were a couple of ideas brought forward that the Board is working on.

1. We've placed markers in the traffic islands so they don't get damaged during snowplowing.
2. Coordinated mulch delivery for the neighborhood. Gus Lemcke has worked a deal through Tiffany's for Arden residents to purchase mulch at wholesale pricing, plus the regular cost of delivery. This is a savings of \$5-7 less a cubic yard. This will be publicized in the newsletter.
3. Neighborhood Garage Sale. A discussion ensued on when the best time to have this would be. Most at the meeting thought after the Art Fair and Indy 500, perhaps the 1st or 2nd weekend in June. The Board's involvement would simply be to let neighbors know about the date. It was suggested that we could collect \$2 from each neighbor that would like to participate to place an ad in the paper. Others suggested advertising on Craig's List.

Arden Neighborhood Association Membership Report

Ms. Irene Stevens presented the membership report. In 2011 we had 157 household members for a total of \$5,985. Last year we had 134 households for a total of \$5,025. Ms. Stevens explained that we added the ability to pay dues online via Ardenindy.org or simply drop a check off at Ms. Stevens's house.

Mr. Valanzano raffled a one-hour landscape consultation with Lemcke Landscaping.

Arden Neighborhood Association Business

A couple of minutes of Arden Association Business included the election of board members. Three board members currently on the board agreed to serve another three years.

President—Gene Valanzano

Treasurer—Tracy Hinshaw Chandler

Board Member—Gus Lemcke

Mr. Valanzano announced that there was a vacant Board position and asked if anyone at the meeting wanted to be considered for that Board member position.

Lorinne Banister expressed her interest in being Board Secretary. Mr. Valanzano explained that the Secretary position was vacated during the summer and that Ms. Banister inquired about the position. Ms. Banister gave a brief resume of her activities and interest in the neighborhood.

Motion to re-elect Gene Valanzano, President, Tracy Hinshaw Chandler, Treasurer and Gus Lemcke, Board Member unanimously approved.

Board Members: Motion to have Lorinne Banister serve as Board Secretary.

Motion to approve: Ed Smith

Seconded: Jean Deeds

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Mr. Valanzano: Motion to approve officers for the Board: Gene Valanzano, President; Tracy Hinshaw Chandler, Treasurer; Irene Stevens, Vice President; and Lorinne Banister, Secretary.

Motion to approve: Ed Smith

Seconded: Melissa Kerker

Mr. Valanzano proceeded to giveaway two tickets to a Butler basketball game.

At this time, Mr. Valanzano opened the floor to questions from members of the audience.

Ms. Lee Lange stated that she just moved back to the neighborhood in February would like to see the ANA lower the speed limit in Arden from 30 to 20. She believes people are driving too fast and don't even stop at stop signs. She just asked that we start the conversation about this before someone gets hurt. Mr. Valanzano said we've asked people to slow down in newsletters and emails and will continue to do so. Discussion ensued regarding how the ANA was brought back together after the speed bump debacle on 70th Street years ago. Mr. Valanzano assured Ms. Lange that the Board would look into it further.

A neighbor also mentioned the dangerous bicycle groups that barrel through our neighborhood. It was suggested that the Board reach out to CIBA to ask them to be more cautious through Arden.

Ms. Ann Duck questioned whether the ANA has any neighborhood regulations regarding rental properties. Mr. Valanzano stated that we do not. He suggested that Ms. Duck keep a log, take pictures and that if anything illegal is going on to call the police.

A member of the audience commended the Board for getting with BP to clean the place up. She also mentioned that neighbors next to BP are concerned about: Number of delivery trucks, the fact BP is open 24 hours and that people are hanging out behind the station. Mr. Valanzano suggested those BP neighbors bring their specific concerns to an upcoming ANA Board meeting to discuss further.

Ms. Kathy Shannon inquired about the survey stakes and holes in the island near her home on Arden Drive. Mr. Valanzano thought it might be the last of the Meridian Hills street signs being put up.

Ms. Laurie Schumacher shared an idea for a new social event called a pink flamingo party. Any one participating would put a pink flamingo in their yard inviting neighbors to stop by.

A Willow Road neighbor asked about snowplowing. Apparently, we have to have four inches of snow before the city comes out. And unfortunately last year we had snow events of only 3 inches several days in a row and this was not enough for the city to come out. Mr. Valanzano explained that this has been looked into by the Board many times and that the cost of hiring an independent contractor to do this are too cost prohibitive.

The \$75 Northside Social gift certificate was finally raffled. The winner was Derek Redelman.

There being no further business, the Annual Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Kerker, Social/Communications Committee