

## Mapleton-Fall Creek Neighborhood Association

### Minutes for October 8, 2015

*Approved*

**6:36 p.m. – Meeting called to order by President, Al Polin**

#### **Moment of Silence**

Introductions

**6:39 pm - Minutes** from the September 2015 meeting were presented and approved.

**6:40 pm - Treasury Report - Gerald Dupree**

Chase checking account balance is \$5,847.65 [*\$5,938.44 September balance*] and the Prudential account balance is 6,108.98 [*\$6,371.87 September balance*]. The decrease in the Chase account is due to printing of flyers for the Senior dinner.

#### **Updates**

**IMPD/Prosecutor Report** - list of cases is available to review. One new thing - there is a flyer up front for a crime prevention by environmental design. We did a training a few months back on reviewing a property and giving a survey on how to make your home less of a target to robbers--Things like lighting, tree trimming, etc. We have been able to do a few apartment complexes and a few homes. If there is a building in your area that you think could use this survey, feel free to let us know and we can see if we can make contact with them and at least make contact.

You could have a group of neighbors go through the survey and help make your block/street more compliant with these safety precautions and get more "bang for your buck."

The last new group of officers our area received 2-3 officers.

Landlord training in November. Good for anyone who owns a couple properties and rent out a house - not necessarily for the apartment complex owner. Helps with knowing ins-and-outs of renting out a property. At the Julia Carson center.

#### **Discussion**

- Block clubs would also be very helpful. This would help in keeping neighbors safe. Talk to your neighbor and if you don't like them, write notes. Just let them know if you saw something suspicious.
- Large amount of shootings, killings and crimes in our city, state, in general.
- Posting on nextdoor is also a way to help keep everyone informed.

Neighbor Power on Oct. 17 at Marion University - the CDC will be giving a presentation about stopping the gas station development (second session).

**CDC** - The house on 3305 Ruckle was sold. There will be a gas station hearing November 9 at 1:30 pm at the Marion Superior Court. 200 E. Washington. - The permit was revoked so the owner appealed that decision. The hearing will be based off of that. The public is invited to attend but only to observe. There won't be much of an opportunity to speak. The MFCNA is still holding to our stance against the gas station. Oct. 15 - 5:30 pm will be the QoL meeting. Food access conversations will be going on revolving around the community efforts. We have Nap credits available through Dec. - you can get fed income and state tax reductions. Brochure is over on the table. Explains about what these credits go towards. Only a little under 5,000 credits are available to an individual. Last week a cleanup on 3116

Park Ave. we were awarded funding to demolish that house while we're waiting for the funding we had some volunteers from Trinity church to remove all the overgrowth. We cut down 5 trees that were invasive.

### **Vice President Reports**

**Edna** - We need block clubs so if anyone is interested please let me know.

- Ms. Dupree is still walking - 10/10 at 1pm 10/15 at 6:30 pm - 16 at 1 and 29th at 6:30, 30th at 1pm
- 4H meeting at Shortridge has gone well - several students have enrolled. Oct. 29 at 6:30 pm at Shortridge is the next meeting
- Goldfinch by Donna - 2pm at College library discussion - date TBD
- Senior dinner is at the end of the month - you can purchase tickets now . It's at Julia Carson center at 6pm

**Chuck** - VP report is on the table if you're interested in all of the details. Essentially we have a landlord who wants to put up a 9' fence that we're trying to work with in understanding our objection and desire for it to remain within code.

- This past week there have been people wandering around 31st and College - residents were wandering around asking for water because there was no water in the house. They are filled with mentally handicapped or mentally ill individuals - the landlords are renting it out to people without having any care or concern for their wellbeing or for the neighborhood. All we can do is keep our eye on it, report something suspicious. Even if it is non-emergency the city can still keep a record about it. It is a problem and we just need to keep our eye on it.
- No Renew Indy apps to review.
- Pickup tools are available - gloves, buckets, t-shirts.
- We did distribute copies of the Urban Times - we should be getting 250 copies this next time. We are happy to have volunteers to deliver 10-15 copies throughout the neighborhood.
- Naomi House and House of Ruth - coming along. They are trying to get funding. They have cleaned the building out and have posted no dumping signs. This is a charitable institution.

Also to note - Chuck is running for city council.

I've lived in the neighborhood for 26 years. I have a business in the district I have had for 38 years. I'm finding out that many communities in our area don't feel they have an ear in the city council level. They don't listen to what our problems are (like gas stations going in because zone hasn't been addressed) I want to work with and for the neighborhoods. On the table are campaign cards and talking points with a main bio if you would like more information. Also, on the 15th I'll be at a candidates forum if you have any interest in going to that. It's at a church at 52nd street at 6pm. The election is Nov. 3rd. The deadline to register to vote was Oct. 5. I'll be around after the meeting in case anyone has any questions.

Nate is still absent. So, I'd like to have Brenda stand up and talk about herself and ask her to be on our board. - Need to see if we have a Quorum. (minimum of 10 members). 10 confirmed.

**Brenda Branch** - I have a business in our neighborhood. I am all about children. The children I deal with come out top in their class. That's what I do. I'm having a big issue right now because there is so much rape in our schools right now that I'm asking everybody that next month write down some thoughts about how we can protect our children from the adults who are supposed to protect our kids and teach them. It is getting to be a very serious problem. I've always been willing to step up and help. I'm on the committee for 4H, I follow through with what I say I'm going to do. I let my work speak for me rather than I speak for it. I do have a child care and may not be at all the meetings during the daylight hours but in the evenings I try to catch those. I've been in the community for a long time. You can check me. I'm not going to say I'm squeaky clean. I'm going to say I'm taking one step at a time.

By working with children she is in a good position to talk to parents and letting them know there are things they can do to help.

**7:35 pm - vote** Brenda Branch is on the board.

### **Questions and UPdates from the neighbors**

Real Estate property taxes are too high - anything we can do?

- well there is a cap now on property taxes that's in it's 3rd year at a 1% cap.

Discussion regarding the history of our city's property tax, the Tif projects, and funding that relates to this and infrastructure improvements.

- The 38th and Illinois facade project is a TIF piece.
- Contact your city county reps and ask them. There was a recent article in the IBJ about the recent changes with TIF.
- 30th and College intersection between 4-6 - that block at FC and college - the lights are not synced enough to allow people to get through. It's a mess.
- How do you get your sidewalks done - City County Council - contact your council man
  - A good use of TIF money should be used for street/sidewalk repair. I don't understand why the survey and walkthrough didn't cover it. How did they choose their blocks?

**7:45 pm** - meeting is adjourned