



Fayetteville Council of Neighborhoods

Together We Will Make A Difference

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Fayetteville Council of Neighborhoods Minutes from February 19, 2009 Meeting

Michael Thomas brought the meeting to order.

Those in attendance introduced themselves by name and neighborhood or affiliation as follows:

Michael Thomas, Sunset Woods POA; Jo Ann Kvamme, Root School; Susan Jenkins, Elm/Erstan/Baker; Ethel Simpson, University Heights; LaVerne Cogan, West 62; Dave Flynn, Huntingdon; P.P. Peters, Clabber Creek II; Jonathan Story, Woodland; Karen Reese, Washington Willow; Stan Lancaster, Jefferson-Walker; Bob Caulk, Mt. Sequoyah South; Walt Eilers, Waterman Woods; Julie McQuade, City Neighborhood Coordinator; Valerie B., Fieldstone POA; as well as a representative from the North Arkansas Times Newspaper.

Karen Minkel explained what a Historic District is, and what its restrictions are to qualify. But she also spoke of it as a tool to benefit the neighborhood; not only giving a “sense of place” to the neighbors, but also an identity that bears recognition. Current neighborhoods already listed on the National Register are Mt. Nord, Wilson Park, Washington/Willow. The current proposed nomination is Dickson Street West, the boundaries of which are, on both sides of the street, University Ave. and St. Charles, as well as, north up to Lafayette via West St. Ms. Minkel spoke to us, and is speaking to churches and other organizations, to bring awareness to this endeavor. A Mon., March 2 meeting was announced for property owners in the proposed district. Brief question-and-answer followed.

Chad Ball with the City’s Code Compliance Department spoke next, stating their mission to, “Preserve and protect the safety and welfare of the residents of Fayetteville.” Their focus is to educate the citizens on what a Code Compliance violation is, as well as what other City departments should be called, depending on violation. He followed with a talk on the step-by-step process to submit a violation, and what to expect in response. This was aided by a power-point presentation with photos of various violations. Brief question-and-answer followed.

Karen Reese gave the treasurer's report: \$138.05 in the bank.

Walt Eilers announced an event at the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks on March 21st, from 10 am to 1pm. This event is organized by "Replant NWA," in reaction to the tree devastation. There will be booths where people will be able to talk with experts one on one, get information, and participate in short demonstrations related to trees, planting, tree care, etc. He also is on the Mayor's Transition Committee, and let us know he has promoted FCON as a resource for the City. Finally, he put out a call for volunteers to help clear debris in the Confederate Cemetery. Contacts are Al Vick, cemetery caretaker and/or Carol Jones with Parks and Recreation.

Karen Reese gave the group a review of what the Beauty Mark Award is, how to submit a nominee, it's cost to FCON, and how that is paid; FCON pays half of the \$85 cost, while the remainder is paid by sponsor, The North Arkansas Times Newspaper. Ms Reese also suggested Lisa Sharp and Steve Clark as persons interested in reviving the award, possibly enabling there to be more than one award given. She agreed to begin the work to reinstate the award.

Urban Forester, Greg Howe, happened to be in the building during our meeting, and honored Julie McQuade's request that he speak to the group. Mr. Howe gave us an update on the City's endeavors to clean up the debris left by the recent ice storm. Since the City alone cannot carry out the task, a contractor has been chosen to do the work. This will entail one sweep of the entire City, hopefully completed in ten days. This will be followed by two more sweeps, as needed, in various neighborhoods. The City will monitor work, and postings will appear on the City's web site as to neighborhoods to be cleared 24 hours before beginning. Starting Sun., Feb. 22, the clearing will begin on the City's main roads first. There will also be two sites for collection, where grinders will be used. A FIMA representative is present in Fayetteville. While there will be free mulch for everyone wanting it, the City is also looking for ways to profit from the debris as a commodity.

Neighborhood updates followed. Most neighborhoods are consumed by the after effects of the ice storm, so we accepted that as a given activity in each neighborhood. Karen Reese, Washington Willow, reviewed a neighborhood issue of an abandoned, unfenced residential pool on unoccupied property. Susan Jenkins, Elm-Erstan-Baker, reported on a Code Compliance house in her neighborhood. Dave Flynn, Huntingdon, reported on his neighborhood's efforts to clean up their neighborhood themselves, enabled by City cooperation.

Ideas for our March 19th meeting were: speaker John Coleman concerning sustainability, and discussion of the upcoming Economic Summit.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jenkins, Secretary