

NESCO Board Meeting – September 23, 2014

Present:

Bosart Brown: Mark Saetre	
Brookside: Tommy Reddicks	Excused
Cottage Home: Dan Doll	Dan Doll
Emerson Heights: Rebecca Seifert	Rebecca Seifert
Englewood: Brent Aldrich	Brent Aldrich
Forest Manor: no representative	n/a
Grace Tuxedo: no representative	n/a
Holy Cross: Kelly Wensing	Kelly Wensing
Little Flower: Thomas Sisson	Thomas Sisson
NoBO: Camelia Clay	
Otterbein: no representative	n/a
Rivoli: Pat Paff	Pat Paff
Spades Park: Marsha Burkhardt	Marsha Burkhardt
Springdale: Jerry Shepard	
St. Clair Place: Stephen Ball	Stephen Ball
TEAR/United: no representative	n/a
Willard Park: Zach Adamson	Excused
Windsor Park: Mark Schroeder	Mark Schroeder
Woodruff Place: Matt Belsaas	Matt Belsaas
At-Large: Chris Staab	Chris Stabb
At-Large: Ruth Shaw	Ruth Shaw
At-Large: Ken Holyoak	Ken Holyoak
Rick Van Dyke, Director Transportation	Rick Van Dyke

Guests include:

- Melissa Benton, NEAR, Feast of Lanterns and bookkeeper
- Megan Fetter, Director of Neighborhood Engagement
-

Welcome & Introduction

- The meeting opened at 6:30 pm. Kelly Wensing invited those present to introduce themselves.

Public Comments:

- Sept 25 is the groundbreaking on the transit center.
- Walk with Winnie (Ballard) occurs Sept 29, at 301 E Washington St.
- Rebecca Seifert will lead the second phase of the Emerson Ave. gateway from 16th to 10th St.
- Earth Charter meeting Thurs. Sept 25 at 7 pm at the Atheneum regarding the relationship between green (ecological) and neighborhoods of color (race) and how they relate to the consumption of energy.
- Rivoli Neighborhood will have a sale at 941 Gray St.
- Cottage Home block party on Oct 11.

Board Business:

- Approval of Minutes – Stephen Ball asked if the group had any changes to the July 2014 board minutes.
 - Chris Stabb moved and Tom Sisson seconded that the approval of the July minutes. Motion was carried. One abstention.
- Approval of Minutes – Stephen Ball asked if the group had any changes to the August 2014 board minutes.
 - Chris Stabb moved and Tom Sisson seconded that the approval of the July minutes. Motion was carried.
- Treasurers Report – Matt Belsaas reported on the Feast of Lanterns budget. (See baseline totals under FOL report under Old Business)
- Presidents Report – Kelly Wensing – Discussed the lending of strings of FOL lights to the Indy Parks Indy Farms on Shadeland Ave this Saturday, Sept 27 for their fundraiser. We would like to help but are concerned there is not enough time.

New Business/Call to Action:

- Hoosier Rails to Trails Council – Presented by Mario Vian – There are plans for a national cross country bicycle routes. Route 35 is the section proposed thru Marion County, and it needs to be approved. Hoosier Rails to Trails advocates turning railway tracks into bicycle trails. Mario Vian asked for NECO’s endorsement for one of two possible interstate bicycle routes. The route Mario Vian proposes goes through NESCO neighborhoods and may provide revenue from bikers using the route. The other route is more direct and takes less time, but bypasses more of the Near Eastside. A letter of support is needed by Dec. 1. A letter of support will be presented for approval at the next NESCO Board meeting.
 -
- Promise Zones – Megan Fetter presented the initiative. The federal government is offering a program for 10 federally designated selected communities through HUD. The “Promise Zone” has the potential to leverage federal funds for improving the quality of life in the Near Eastside. Though not providing funding itself, the HUD Promise Zone designation gives clout to apply for grants from various agencies of the federal government. Applications for the Promise Zone are assessed on a point system based on economic need and thoroughness of planning. Only one application in the city can have the support of the Indianapolis government. Discussion centered around whether to include all NESCO neighborhoods or those with the highest unemployment and least income. There are 60 days to get application done which is due Nov. 1. The Promise Zone initiative will be presented at the Oct 1 Summit Meeting at East 10th St. Methodist.
 -
- IFD Smoke Detector Program – Contact Nina at 317- 327- 1050 or email at nina.powell@indy.gov if you wish to volunteer. This program targets seniors and provides free smoke detectors. This is for fire prevention month.
 -

- NESCO Happy Haunted Halloween – Kelly Wensing Oct 31st. All NESCO neighborhoods are invited to participate in the Trunk or Treating and other activities which include a pie eating contest for adults and a costume contest. The location is the Legacy Plaza.
 -
- NESCO Congress – Rebecca Seifert proposed the date of Feb 21st at Englewood Christian Church. A volunteer group was formed to work out the theme(s) and content of the Congress.
 -

Old Business:

- Charitable Trust Update – Kelly Wensing is still working with the Legal Clinic.
- Feast of Lanterns Preliminary Report – Melissa Benton/Matt Belsaas. Income from the FOL was \$15507.54. Expenses were \$14142.94. Melissa and Matt were applauded for their volunteer efforts and contributing so much of their time to the project. A project manager for next year is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm by Kelly Wensing

Next Meeting will be held on October 28, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the Boner Center.