

## **Pike Township Residents' Association**

### **Meeting Minutes 02/11/09**

Susan Blair called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Susan reminded attendees to sign-in. Sign-in form on the back table. She identified items on the table. There were no roster or membership applications. She reviewed how to become a PTRA member or a board member. The website address was also given.

Susan recognized elected officials, city personnel, and community representatives:

Steve Jones, Township Fire Marshal  
Sam Bruner, Assistant Township Fire Marshal  
Jose' Evans, Councilor-District 1  
Mary Clark, President-Lafayette Square Area Coalition  
Maggie Lewis, "Lets Improve Crooked Creek" and Councilor - District 7  
Katherine Ritchie, Secretary, Pike Township School Board  
Mary Chalmers, Pike Township & Eagledale Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison

- I. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES** – Don Bryson made the motion that we accept them as written. Ray Dillon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- II. TREASURER'S REPORT** – Fran Clarke not in attendance. The prior balance was \$3333.50. After discussion there was an estimated \$215.00 taken in and \$125.00 spent. Susan indicated that she had purchased the gift cards for the "Officer of the Month" program and she was reimbursed.
- III. REPORT FOR PIKE TOWNSHIP FROM INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT NORTHWEST DISTRICT AND PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE** – Deputy Prosecutor Drew Wignal spoke on various topics. He had a hand out related to a new program that they were putting in place called "Crosswalk". This was done primarily as a result of the issues on the East Side of the city. In the program volunteers will rotate to random bus stops in the city to make sure the kids stay safe. He indicated that in IPS alone there are more than 480 bus stops. He indicated that the phone number and contact information was at the bottom of the handout for volunteers. Please contact Kevin Tichenor at the Marion County Prosecutors office at 317-327-5641 or Drew Wignal at 317-327-6652. There will be background checks on all volunteers.

The IMPD Northwest website at [Indygov.org](http://Indygov.org) has been updated. There is some new documentation and a complaint form. Residents may also contact Matt Grimes at 317-327-6616 or e-mail at [G4004@indygov.org](mailto:G4004@indygov.org) about any information.

The next Task Force Meeting of IMPD Northwest will be March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, IMPD Northwest District office.

A hard copy of the crime statistics was given to Susan. Drew also e-mailed them to her for distribution to the rest of the group.

The first graffiti cover-up this year will be February 27<sup>th</sup>.

The burglary numbers for last month went down. The explanation could be that the cold weather had a lot to do with it. Major Ciesielski desires to reduce burglaries by 10% each month. Most of the burglaries are in apartment complexes (there are 75 in the Northwest District). Monthly meetings are taking place to educate apartment managers. The February meeting will be about Crime Watch.

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS, PLAT REPORTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE

- There is a DPW informational meeting Thursday at 7:00 PM at Fishback Elementary School regarding the closure of Lafayette Road at the Eagle Creek Bridge. Construction will begin March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Pike Fire Marshal will be in attendance. The detour will be 71<sup>st</sup> and 86<sup>th</sup> to I465. If there are any problems contact Mary Chalmers.
- Cloud 9 on West 38<sup>th</sup> Street in the former Franks Nursery made an inquiry about the requirements to operate a strip club. We want to inform them that they just can't do that. There will be zoning issues that they must address. Mary Clark will talk with the owners.
- Susan and Mark are working with Eagle Creek homeowners, the Parks Department, and the Soccer Club to develop a better relationship. They will have monthly meetings for a while to address concerns. The February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was very productive, but they still have a lot further to go. The next meeting is March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Gardens of Growth are up for trial next week. It will be held in Environmental Court on Virginia Avenue. Susan and the neighbors will attend. A city corporate counsel attorney will go to the homeowner's home that made the DVD for us to watch, to observe the negative impact of the business on their quality of life. They are in non-compliance again with a truck sitting on the road with a "For Sale" sign in the window. It will be addressed in court. Bob Clutter, Attorney, is representing the defendant.
- TPAN – Traders Point Association of Neighbors, President Steve Jones has been meeting with interested parties regarding IPL's tree trimming practices. There are questions as to whether IPL can do what they do. They can, but they must give restitution to the homeowners. Charlie Goodwin is trying to get signatures for legislative support. Jerry Baker will provide some information tonight. A few years ago, some of the TP neighbors fought IPL and were able to hold them off for 8 months. They believe the city's right-of-way is actually on private property. IPL feels they have a right to come onto private property if the trees are, in their opinion, obstructing power lines. Senator Delft is listening to concerns. Neighbors will have to take IPL to court for property damage compensation. Steve Jones said there is an attorney willing to file a class action lawsuit. 5 – 6 property owners throughout the city who have had problems with IPL's practices are needed. This should be a city wide and statewide effort. Jan provided an opposing view. She was without power for 4 days due to a neighbor's tree on private property falling on a power line. She feels PTRAs should be very careful about support.
- Mary Clark announced the next Lafayette Square Area Coalition meeting is February 24<sup>th</sup> at Westview Health Complex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 5:30 PM. On the agenda – Speedway Redevelopment Commission to discuss the proposed closure of Georgetown Road.
- The Lafayette Square Mall EVMS sign was approved. There will be no scrolling. One display every 3 – 5 minutes. No electronic mall sign on 38<sup>th</sup> Street. Only mall tenants will be permitted to advertise on the sign. Lettering will be amber in color.

V. LIQUOR PERMITS – No report this month.

#### VI. LAND USE –CONTINUED PETITION

- 1) **7355 Michigan Rd. – 2008-UV2-027** Paul Lowrey, requests a variance of use and development standards to legally establish a tattoo parlor on a lot within zero-feet of a protected district (min. 500-foot separation required), and to legally establish parking with a zero-foot front setback from the existing (proposed) right-of-way of Michigan Rd. (min. ten-foot front landscape strip required). Current zoning is C-3. Council District 2. Hearing date continued for cause by petitioner to 2/17/09, BZA II. Presenter is Bob Frye. Chairperson is Clint Fultz, VP-District IV. *This had been continued at the hearing. Reason-new owner and new legal counsel. Clint moved that we reconsider last month's motion; Jan seconded. Motion passed. Bob Frye with Stewart and Irwin gave presentation. The tattoo shop has been there for 3 years. It is properly zoned, however, tattoo parlors require a special exception. Former owner sited for non-compliance in October 2007. The original owner sold the business to a former employee and their partner, Quentin Kinchlo, without informing them of the violation. The owners were in attendance. They have never had any problems with IMPD. Even so, they have hired security for Friday and Saturday evening – 12:00 noon – 10:00 PM. Tattoo parlors are highly regulated by State Board of Health, and there have never been any violations at their location. They are open Mon – Thurs. 12:00 – 9:00 PM, Friday and Saturday – 12:00 – 10:00 PM and closed Sunday. They will commit to landscaping within the right of way and install a sidewalk. The variance is for this retail space only. Susan read a letter from Councilor Mansfield who is opposed. There is a single-family dwelling district within 500 feet. Also stated by the councilor, there are gangs in the area, and more*

*gang members will be attracted by the tattoo parlor. After further discussion, Clint made a motion to support with commitments regarding hours of operation, sidewalk installed, new fencing built and maintained, and landscaping. Paul suggested the variance be limited to the owners and not run with the property. The petitioners and attorney agreed to his request. Ray inquired about their signage. The current signage on the building will remain the same. Jan seconded. The motion carried with 1 vote against.*

**Meeting duly adjourned at 8:55 PM**