

## **02/17/15 – Neighborhood President’s Council Meeting**

- **Urban Gardening:** Brian Preston, Mark Kreps and Lindsey Helms (Presenters)
  - Community Gardening in Muncie – Brian Preston
    - Currently 16 gardens located in the city (Example – North St. Garden)
    - Different Models
      - Communal – Share work and harvest
      - Allotment – Gardeners each have their own plot to plant, work and harvest
    - History
      - Long history of Victory Gardens during WWI; Muncie was nationally recognized as one of the most productive counties
      - Urban gardening declined in Muncie in the 1920’s
      - The 1930’s and the Great Depression saw urban gardens used as poor relief
  - Church of God Garden – Mark Kreps
    - Formed a committee – saw a need to feed the hungry in our community
      - People came forward with various items: tractor, fencing, shed – volunteered their time and equipment
      - Donations & grants – Walmart, Burpee Seeds, Craft fair @ church raised \$150, Community Foundation granted \$1000 for tools
      - Water supplied by church
    - Each year must start again at square one to get people involved
      - Work with Master Gardeners in your area – can educate and volunteer
      - May 16<sup>th</sup> @ Fair Grounds 8-11 am – Master Gardeners Plant Sale
  - Maring Hunt Garden – Lindsey Helms
    - Allotment style garden – 8 x 25’ plots rented to individual gardeners
    - Timeline
      - Winter – advertise & recruit (fliers, Facebook), send out donation requests, choose seeds and start plants
      - Spring – orientation for new gardeners, repair signs, coordinate volunteers, spring cook-out kick-off event, do “big idea” planning
      - Summer – event planning, watering, plot re-assignments, staying in touch with gardeners, deal with extra produce and coordinating donations
      - Fall – Harvest party, till all plots (unless request for winter garden)
    - Advice: “Don’t strive for perfection,” things come up that you will have to deal with creatively
    - Challenges: heavy compost that needs turned, theft (picnic table), providing shade for gardeners
  - Resources
    - Urban Gardening Initiative – loose network of local community gardeners; have Facebook account
    - Purdue Extension Educator – Michael O’Donnell
    - Farmished – non-profit starting a larger urban gardening initiative @ Frank’s Foundry
    - Connection Corner – Whitely Community Council (WCC) partnered with library to build tool shed with tools; access to the tool shed with membership to WCC
- **Neighborhood Reports:**
  - **Minnetrista** (Stephanie) – neighborhood is thinking about starting a garden; have a few houses that need torn down; two are part of the Hardest Hit Program; created sesquicentennial committee to plan neighborhood event
  - **Forest Park** (Mark) – May 2<sup>nd</sup> neighborhood cleanup; February 20<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6:30 Senior Citizens Center Chili Supper; Senior Citizens Center is having a Tenderloin Supper, March 20<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6:30pm \$7.00 per person; Spring Fling will take place at the Senior Center in April (don’t know date yet); July 25<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:30 pm ice

cream social; dealing with blighted house in neighborhood; will be discussing community garden with neighborhood at upcoming meeting (had partnered with Dialogue Church in the past)

- **Northview** (Sherry) – held first meeting in September – new to leadership role in neighborhood
- **Blaine/Southeast** (Clifford) – working on planning playground; narrowed down to two equipment vendors; press release to go out soon to the Star Press; playground will be located at site of old Blaine school
- **Robinwood** (Jennifer) – recreating sense of community; March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting @ Unitarian Universalist Church – Jason Donati will speak about rain gardens/barrels; May 16<sup>th</sup> rummage sale; hoping to bring back 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade; will use one empty lot as a place for neighborhood cook-out
- **Riverside/Normal City** (Bill) – Melinda Messineo’s immersive learning class survey will get a better feel of the neighborhood: rentals/homeowners; Kyle Johnson (DCGIS) created map of homesteads (north of Riverside is nearly all rentals); did SWOT session at last neighborhood meeting – students will return to next meeting with survey instrument and hit the streets to canvas; Campus Community Coalition (CCC) interested in community based social event to pull students in and involve residents; signage – have been considering street-sign toppers that include neighborhood name because there are so many entrances/exits out of the neighborhood
- **Avondale/Thomas Park** (Shelby) – March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting; May 9<sup>th</sup> neighborhood cleanup
- **Whitely** (Frank) – purchased first home to rehabilitate (beautification committee) and a van with neighborhood logo; have identified 7 goals and have committees meeting to address these; average about 75 people at each meeting (not all residents – BMH, BSU, committee partners); neighborhood association formed in 1966 – meet every second Monday at the Career Center
- **Westbrier** (Lynn) – meeting with Friday with Duke Campbell to speak about sidewalks & bike paths in the neighborhood – could connect to BSU; group interested in native planting along the ditch
- **Pettigrew Acres** (John) – planning cleanups and entryway gardens; fixing a walkway where Petty has been paved higher than the walkway; would like to contact an arborist to discuss replacing neighborhood ash trees; budget for snow removal higher than usual – city now plowing the neighborhood so have extra funds in this account – will see what people would like improved with these monies; installed tree row a few years ago; need to do something with corner that people have been sliding into; neighborhood signage is on the agenda this year (where is MAP at in this process?); have been meeting since 1966 – always active & small
- **Western Woods** (Ginny) – paving plan moving forward this year; last year’s priorities will move forward this year

- **Announcements:**

- Heather Williams (BBN)
  - Neighbor helping Neighbor booklet – just updated by MPD; can get additional copies for neighborhoods
  - T-shirt order forms – please return by March NPC meeting
- Ginny Nilles (MAP)
  - Please send newsletters to MAP so that items can be added to the MAP newsletter
  - Looking to get a grant to do neighborhood signs
    - Should follow city’s way finding guide
    - Whitely applied for CDBG funding to do this – check cost/pricing
    - What is the timeframe on this?
  - The Task Force is looking into forming its own 501c3 to help neighborhoods with acquiring grant funding