

05/20/14 – Neighborhood President's Council Meeting

- Duke Campbell had an emergency and was unable to attend; Duke informed Jim Wingate that the Street Department expects to get a similar funding allocation for streets and sidewalks for 2014-2015; A few major roads would be repaved this year, including Madison St.
- Jeff Hager, Hager Consulting
 - Has worked on 30 different projects for the city – used to work for Brooke Linton on deconstruction
 - Can do both demolition and rehabilitation; would like to partner with the neighborhoods on demolition/deconstruction of Hardest Hit Fund houses
 - Passed out his business card (765-215-6084 jhager4362@yahoo.com)
- Jim Wingate
 - Please make sure that you take the information given to you at these meetings back to your neighbors – share via email and/or newsletter; try to expand your neighborhood contacts list
 - Call 747-4852 (Sanitary District) if you find that your streets need cleaning
- Canvassing Events (Isabelle Sowers)
 - Thomas Park/Avondale:
 - Saturday, May 24th 10:00-12:00 pm
 - Meet at the Ross Center, 1110 W. 10th St.
- Unsafe Building process (Bill Morgan)
 - If a house is vacant it is considered unsafe by state law
 - Step 1: Call the Building Commissioner's office to report the house as vacant/abandoned/unsafe (747-4862)
 - Step 2: Inspector from the Building Commissioner's office will inspect and tag the house; fill out paperwork
 - Step 3: Paperwork is passed on to Gretchen Cheesman, Administrator of the Unsafe Building Hearing Authority; Gretchen works in the City's Community Development Department
 - Step 4: Gretchen sets the property for a hearing date and notifies the owner
 - Step 5: A hearing is held on the property
 - The owner comes to the meeting and agrees to demolish or rehabilitate the property; they are given more time to complete the work and are required to submit a budget and schedule and post a performance bond; owner is called back to future hearings to report on progress
 - The owner states that they are not capable of doing the work; civil penalties are placed on the property; the property will likely be marked for demolition
 - The owner does not come to the meeting; two hearings are held on the property and civil penalties are placed on the property; it is marked for demolition
 - Important to note: The city has HUNDREDS of properties that are awaiting a hearing and HUNDREDS (if not thousands) awaiting demolition; if you want to know where a property is in the hearing process you can contact Gretchen at 747-4825 or gcheesman@cityofmuncie.com
- Heather Williams
 - NextDoor application for smartphones; passed out article; operates much like FaceBook but only for residents within a neighborhood; useful for informing residents of things like lost dogs, burglaries, upcoming neighborhood events, etc.
 - Sanitary District application for Fall Cleanup – due July 01; applications made available
 - Community Development homeowner rehab opportunity for specific neighborhoods; emailed to neighborhood presidents in selected areas; applications made available
 - United Way Day of Action – Volunteer opportunity scheduled for September 04; passed out copies of application
 - Website design handout; requested submissions from each neighborhood on history, notable residents, what makes the neighborhood special, etc.; framework is being developed now with content to be filled

in in the next few months; please send information about your neighborhoods via email to Heather ASAP so that she and Amy can begin working on it while Heather is on leave

- Annie Poole
 - Muncie-Delaware Clean and Beautiful has partnered with Bonnie Plants
 - Free plants haven't arrive yet; Annie will send information to Jim/Larry to disseminate to all of the members on plant availability when they do arrive
 - Pathstone is having a fundraiser on June 06 (handed out fliers)
- President's Reports (ran out of time)
 - **Forest Park** (Mark Kinman) – working on the neighborhood garden; June 26th 1-4 pm the Senior Center is having their ice cream social