

# Fairfields-Sylvan Neighborhood Association

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## Minutes of the Directors Meeting

February 16, 2011

Board Member	Position	Term Expires	Present	Absent	
Susan Dobson	President	2011	X		
Joe Goeller	Vice President	2012	X		
Lynn Schaller	Treasurer	2012	X		
Ken Ingle	Secretary	2012	X		
Sherry Seiwert	Member	2012	X		
Jan Froehlich	Member	2012		X	
Barbara Hazel	Member	2011		X	
Terry Dobson	Crime Watch	2011	X		
Tom Sturmer	Transportation	2012	X		
Kathie Church	Member	2012	X		

### Call to Order

President Susan Dobson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

### Minutes

The January minutes, as posted by Secretary Ken Ingle on the FSNA website, were approved

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lynn Schaller submitted the treasurer's report. The November 1, 2010 balance was \$4721.17 and the January 31 closing balance was \$4515.12. Expenses were \$134.05 for the tree planted at John Strange School and \$72.00 for opening an FSNA P.O. Box.

### Crime Watch - Terry Dobson

- The month of January was calm, crime-wise, in our neighborhood. However, in neighborhoods to our North and East there were cases reported of persons knocking on doors, then breaking in if it seemed no one was home. Terry advised that these people usually want to avoid personal contact, so if someone suspicious knocks, you should make them aware you are home, but tell them to go away. Have your phone in your hand when you do. Take no chances. Do not open the door to a stranger, as they may try to overpower you. It is best to have your storm door always locked, along with the main door. The presents an extra barrier to cross, allowing time to call 911 and take other protective action.
- An introductory letter has been written for Block Captains to pass out to their client houses. The letter will have the Block Captain's name printed in the text. It also explains FSNA's new policy this year: that a household must join FSNA to participate in the Crime Watch network, as well as to receive other FSNA mailings (except for the spring newsletter, which will still be mailed to all households).

- While most communications between Block Captains and block members will be by email, the captains are asked to make whatever effort is necessary to maintain communications with members who do not have email.

### Guest Speaker

Tom Sturmer introduced Mrs. Maravene Beas (pronounced be as), the principal of John Strange School. Mrs. Beas came to Washington Township from the school system in Kokomo. She has been principal of John Strange for three years.

Mrs. Beas described aspects of the academic programs at John Strange, including their International Baccalaureate studies, which emphasize the customs and languages of the thirteen nations represented in the student body. She also described their Positive Discipline protocol. The school size is now 650 students, due to closings of several other schools, such as Wyandotte to our north. There are no less than six kindergartens now at our school.

Regarding John Strange School - FSNA cooperation, several ideas were exchanged with Mrs. Beas:

- The school could help promote our association among parents and visitors to the area.
- FSNA messages and links could appear on the school's website - and vice versa.
- FSNA is welcome to post announcements on the John Strange bulletin board, e.g., the April Cleanup and Holiday picnic.
- The school will notify FSNA if there is a lockdown due to dangerous conditions in the neighborhood.
- Classroom volunteers are always welcome at John Strange.
- Mrs. Beas will make sure the maintenance staff is aware of our 3rd Wednesday meetings.

### Walkability Assessment

FSNA board member Tom Sturmer is a school dad as well. Tom has walked his kids to school every day for most of the school year so far. As a transportation expert, he is interested in leading a formal Walkability Assessment of the John Strange School neighborhood, i.e. Fairfields-Sylvan and surrounding areas. He showed the meeting some slides he had made for this purpose, showing aerials of the neighborhood centered on the school out to a 1/2 mile distance. Results of the Assessment could be used to petition DPW for new sidewalks in key places and sidewalk repairs. The study is a useful precursor for Safe Routes to School grant applications, which are made by the School Districts or Municipalities. Some local funds from the city's sale of its public utilities have been used to build sidewalks. Volunteers would be needed for the necessary surveys and support for this might be forthcoming from AARP. The John Strange School PTO may also be interested in supporting this survey effort.

It was moved by Joe, seconded by Lynn, that we request Tom to develop an outline for the Walkability Assessment and AARP support for approval at the March meeting. Passed.

### Newsletter and Website Sponsors - Sherry Seiwert

Sherry sent out 20 letters to nearby businesses soliciting sponsored ads in the Newsletter (1/4page for \$50, business card ad for \$20, name listing for \$5) and website ads (3 months for \$125). There have been no responses. It was suggested that when the new website is up, the

businesses be sent a flyer announcing it and giving rates for sponsor ads.

Website - Joe Goeller gave website visit stats - 379 viewers so far.

### Speakers

March – Long Nguyen, Indianapolis DPW - Multi-modal path update (invited, no response yet)

April - Betsy Ingle will request an expert on trees, shrubs and plants.

May - Annual Meeting - no speaker. There will be three board members going off the board. Susan has requested a special effort to find new members to replace them.

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### Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 7pm at John Strange Elementary School.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.