

FSNA Meeting, March 19, 2014 at John Strange School. Called to Order at 7:17 pm.

To: Fairfield-Sylvan Directors

Four Directors had reported being unable to attend last evening, so we did not have a quorum for transacting any motions. Tom volunteered to take the minutes, for what became a positive and interactive exchange among neighbors.

Our Guest Speaker, Councilor Christine Scales arrived before 7:00 pm, advising everyone of new City-County issues being presented to the Council, and discussing the Indianapolis Public Library Strategic Plan, the IFD car seat installation program, the Gun Discharge Policy in Marion County, the Smoke Detector Law, pothole reporting, and a soon to be released sanitary sewer priority report coming from Citizens Energy Group. A few highlights appear below.

1. *Marion County politics:* Christine distributed a one-page list of all the City-County Council members' e-mail addresses. She suggested contacting more than one Council member on issues of interest. Most issues do not get a lot of e-mail input from citizens.
2. *The Library system* is developing a *Strategic Plan* to better serve the needs of the community in the coming years. Because the overall costs of renting the space are high for the Glendale Branch location, and the library is looking at building ownership versus renting in the future, it is possible that the Library Board will consider moving it to another location nearby. Neighbors discussed the importance of the Glendale branch as a community gathering space. The meeting rooms are consistently used.
3. Contact the *Mayor's Action Center* at *Indygov.org* to report *potholes*. Take a photo and send it to them to document the complaint. Call to follow up until the problem is solved.
4. The *Indianapolis Fire Department* has revived its *car seat installation safety program*. Contact the IFD to make your 30-minute safety consultation appointment.
5. The *City County Council's Rules Committee* has passed a *gun discharge law* that will implement restriction on the use of firearms on private property less than 10 acres in Marion County. There have been complaints by neighbors along the White River about duck hunters shooting at waterfowl on private property. DNR alone regulates gun discharge on the White River currently. Public safety has been cited as a reason for this proposed ordinance.
6. A revision of the *smoke detector law* is being considered. This change is being proposed by a manufacturer of the new ionization detector, which is good for flame detection but not as good for smoke detection as the existing photo electric detectors, according to Christine. The ionization detectors have a sealed battery with a 10-year life and are considerably more expensive.

7. *Citizens Energy Group* is has been working with the Indiana Health and Hospital Commission to reassess needs and priorities regarding *sanitary sewers* in Marion County. A report will be released soon.

There was no Treasurer's Report. Steve and Marcia Pierson paid their \$25 in cash, which will be mailed to Sherry at our PO Box address.

Joe mentioned February 19 minutes were on website, and passed around copy as an example.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire hydrant painting was discussed as a reminder, with March not being a suitable month. We will coordinate with Greater Allisonville Community Council when spring weather improves.

NEW BUSINESS

There was considerable discussion as to proceeding with "drainage-problem mapping surveys", with May target date for completion, followed by presentation to Department of Public Works. Drainage survey forms are still available on the FSNA website and will be accepted until May for inclusion into the map.

"Researching revenue through advertising" was tabled.

"Amending Bylaws" was tabled, although with input from neighbors with several proposals:

1. Reduce the annual meeting quorum further down to five per cent (5%) of members. Are votes to be counted by a combined household having one vote, or will husbands and wives each have a vote?
2. Can we develop an electronic voting form, such as a prepared slating list of existing Directors and associated blank lines for neighbors to add different candidates? This electronic form would be emailed in late April, being due by end of second week. It was believed that this could involve neighbors more in the election process. Note that the ballot is only for Director positions. At Annual May meeting, Directors elect the Officers.
3. Our minimum number is five (5) Directors, i.e. President, V-P, Treasurer, Member Secretary, and Recording Secretary, but we could function better up to eleven (11).
4. As of existing Bylaws, there must be a different President elected this May. Unless there is a new candidate, we could consider two possible solutions: (a) Revise current Article VIII, Section 2 – "Officers may not be re-elected for more than three (3) successive terms." Add to this, "with one exception. The President is elected by Directors each

year, but does not have any limitation on number of terms.” One other possibility would be creation of an Executive Director for Fairfield-Sylvan.

5. With FSNA meetings changed to a quarterly basis, e.g. August, November, February, and May, it was proposed that phone conference calls when necessary would provide Board with more communication flexibility. Susan Dobson uses “freeconferencecall.com” for similar situations, and will research the price for a quality conference call telephone.

“Neighborhood Annual Cleanup” – Since Saturday, April 19 is only 3 days after FSNA meeting, Joe distributed a “sneak-preview” flier and sign-up form. This information will be further sent by email during the coming weeks.

Since we normally need less than 20 volunteers, it was decided that putting fliers in 475 neighbor mailboxes would not be a good use of our time. We might send them to paid members. Four members signed the Cleanup Register last evening.

“Attendees \$10 March Card Drawing” was won by Gayle Stahl.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Regards,

Joe