

## Meeting Notes

### Fairfields-Sylvan Neighborhood Association/ John Strange PTO Committee

Meeting held on 3/21/11

**Attendees:** John Strange Elementary School PTO

Jen Thomas, 2011-2012 Co-President

Anne Petersen, Member

Fairfields-Sylvan Neighborhood Association

Tom Sturmer, Board Member

Ted Hudnut, Member

**Founding Mission:**

Through regular communication, identify and implement ways to work together to strengthen neighborhood support of John Strange Elementary School.

**Items Discussed:**

1. Committee formed as a result of a presentation by Mrs. Beas, Principal, to the F-SNA. Several ideas for collaboration were identified.
2. Committee open to F-SNA members appointed by the Board. Committee open to John Strange PTO members as appointed by the PTO co-Presidents.
3. What can we work on in the upcoming year?
  - a. Obtaining and channeling volunteers for the school:
    - i. Jen talked with Mrs. Kemp. The PTO is currently recruiting a volunteer liaison to work on establishing criteria, planning training sessions and scheduling volunteers for next year, to see what is needed and to establish a list of criteria for volunteering.
    - ii. Once this is established, the F-SNA can then advertise for volunteers among its members.

- b. Website links:
  - i. F-SNA to put link to John Strange School web page (part of MSDWT website).
  - ii. Jen to check if link to F-SNA is possible from John Strange School webpage.
- c. Walk/Bike to School Program:
  - i. Committee members interested in discussing the potential of this program at John Strange.
  - ii. F-SNA is sponsoring a sidewalk survey to be held on April 9. Information to be shared with Committee members by Tom. Sidewalks within one half-mile of the School will be evaluated.
  - iii. Safe Routes to School federal grant applications are being accepted between April 1 and May 27 this year.
    - 1. Tom has received training on how to put together a competitive grant application.
    - 2. Does the School want to proceed? Committee to meet again on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss details.
    - 3. Tom to share exhibits and information about grant program.
    - 4. Jen to talk with the Transportation Director of the MSDWT to discuss getting information about where school age children live in the neighborhoods surrounding John Strange.
    - 5. Tom to see if can incorporate this information into the previous prepared exhibits.
    - 6. Tom to query SAVI GIS database for student and health related information.
- d. Traffic issues in the vicinity of John Strange School:
  - i. Residents along Olney Street are not happy with traffic back-ups onto Olney during drop-off and pick-up times, speeding vehicles (including school buses), and on-street parking during school events.
  - ii. A meeting was held on October 1, 2010 between school, neighborhood, and city officials to discuss issues and opportunities. A letter summarizing the meeting outcomes is attached and was distributed at the meeting.
  - iii. The F-SNA will decide which issues to pursue remedies for.
  - iv. Are there any issues that the school would like addressed?
- e. F-SNA is hosting a neighborhood cleanup event and Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 23.
  - i. An event flyer will be prepared and shared with Jen.
  - ii. May need to delete reference to "Easter" (religious holiday) if flyer is distributed via the school.
- f. School can notify the F-SNA crime watch network if there is a school lockdown.
  - i. Who should the school notify? F-SNA to decide and report back to the Committee.
  - ii. Who is responsible from the School? Jen to talk to Ms. Clark.

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 4 @ John Strange School conference room  
(Discuss formation of a Walk/Bike to School Committee)**