

ICON - Regular Meeting - March 27, 2017  
First Church of the Brethren  
2109 Yale Boulevard, Springfield, IL

Present:

Jamie Adair (BPNA), Bill Basket (LPNA), Sam Cahnman (Enos Park); Kurt DeWees (HWSNA), Arlene Flury (VHNA), David Fuchs, Michel Higgins (MBA), Lisa Hill (Washington Park), Juan Huerta, Carol Kneedler (Iles Park), Kerry Noonan Lewis (LPNA), Lynn McMenammin (Ward 7), Kevin Milhelcic (Harvard Park), Dee Nelson (VHNA), Polly Poskins (Harvard Park), Darrell Riffey (Historic West Side; The Avenue), Sharon Riffey (Historic West Side; The Avenue), Scott Sanders, Ernie Slotag (CCNA), April Smith, Janine Toman, Marty Vandiver (Knox Knoles), Suzie Weissberg (LPNA), Jess Weitzel

Twenty two were eligible to vote.

Carol called the meeting to order. There are 5 matters to be voted on.

Darrell Riffey gave the treasurer's report. The balance is \$6,139.87  
We have 38 paid members, 2 lifetime members and 2 organizations. Total of 42.

Carol said that the Steering committee met and discussed three items. Tonight's meeting, problem properties and future speakers.

Then she called for the votes:

1. Do we call the vote an endorsement or a recommendation. She read definitions for both. It was moved by Sam and seconded by Polly to call it an endorsement not a recommendation. Motion passed.
2. Do we accept votes by mail/e-mail. It was stated that this is a very important matter and that you should not be allowed to vote if you are not here. Motion was made and seconded that we not accept votes by e-mail and that you must be present to vote.
3. Do we require a simple majority or 60%. After some discussion it was moved and seconded that a simple majority would be necessary to make an endorsement.
4. Do we spend \$416 for an ad if we are making an endorsement. Motion made by Jess Weitzel and seconded by Sam Cahnman to approve the expense. Motion passed.
5. Ballots were passed out, marked and collected. Ballots were counted by Darrell Riffey and Marty Vandiver.

While the ballots were being counted Sharon Riffey gave a City Council Report. Mark Mahoney announced the free yard pick up would begin on Monday April 10th. The Illinois Realtors Association is spending 1 Million in tiff money to build a center between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> on Jackson. The Mayor has put out a proposal for the "Y" block, 2.35 acres,

which allows for a maximum of 100 apartments due May 15<sup>th</sup>. To be voted on by the Council on June 1 and 20<sup>th</sup>. The design is required to match the realtor property design.

Carol said that the Problem Property committee met on 3/8 and 3/22. Carol said that Bill Basket has agreed to chair the committee. Bill gave an update. He said they plan to start slow to get the process down. He ask that each Neighborhood Association get one bad property to him.

Bill passed out a Problem Property Check List to track problem properties. He asked if the City was more responsible regarding commercial vs. residential. It was stated that they have more success if it is commercial or abandoned residential. Sam said they are tougher on commercial. Bill said that he will be getting reports from the City. Kevin said a city inspector told him a good way to get action was to report abandoned vehicles.

Marty reported on Outreach. He said we have a new list of Neighborhood Associations from the City. He said we are going to invite the associations to be part of ICON. Sam suggested that ICON could visit other neighborhood associations meeting.

Polly reported on her presentation to Leadership Springfield. She said as she was telling her story she realized that she was not painting a very pretty picture of the inner city and she changed direction. She thought she was coming across too negative. We then talked about creating a template for presentations being sure to include lots of positives. This would be something we should work on. It could include pictures of ICON members and successful renovations, etc.

Carol announced the results of the vote. ICON will be endorsing Kristin DiCenso.

Carol said that the next meeting is April 24<sup>th</sup>. Speakers will be Jeff Reim, City Arborist, and Anne Logue. We may move the meeting to a different location. Jamie is checking into having it at Union Baptist Church in April.

Announcements: Polly announced that Harvard Park is going to have a garage sale throughout the neighborhood on April 28 and 29. Carol said that Iles Park is taking pictures with the Easter Bunny on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzie Weissberg