

Capitol View / Stiff Station Neighborhood Association Meeting

February 11, 2008

2715 W. 7th Street – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Ralph Wilcox called the meeting to order:

1) There was no Membership and Treasury report.

2) The minutes from the January meeting were read and approved. Becky Kilmer moved that they be approved and Nancy Sheehan seconded. The motion passed.

3) Scott Miller, president of the Argenta Boosters spoke about their neighborhood association and its success. It was founded in the 1990s as a result of murders that were occurring in Argenta, and when he moved to the area in 2002 the association was in decline. He indicated that the neighborhood is very diverse, being about 70% white and 30% black, and about 20% of the population is gay. In addition, the neighborhood is economically diverse. Scott indicated that the CDC has had a huge impact in the neighborhood in helping to get renovations going. The neighborhood has a blog but does not publish a newsletter. They do send out a monthly meeting notice, which the city mails for them.

a. Recommendations that Scott gave:

i. You have to pick and choose what to be involved in in order to appeal to the neighborhood and its residents. They have used a yearly membership update form and bi-annual ranking survey of neighborhood issues to gauge interests.

ii. Have speakers come to neighborhood association meetings. In Argenta, they have had city officials, alderman, developers, and the CATA director, among others.

iii. Have a wide variety of activities. In Argenta, they have been involved in a neighborhood yard sale, tree planting, street light replacements, alley clean-ups, having special Argenta street signs put in place, a Christmas light competition, dealing with yard parking, and putting a street tree ordinance in place. Future activities will include working on a community garden and being a wireless neighborhood with free internet.

iv. Advocacy is important – be critical but also be positive. Send out press releases letting people know what is going on in the neighborhood – know your local reporter, and be in constant contact with them.

4) Sheilla Reynolds from City of Little Rock Code Enforcement was also at the meeting to give updates on properties in the neighborhood.

a. *402 Thayer* – The owner will be meeting with roofers this week, and will be fixing the property up for his sister to live in.

b. *7th & Coates* – The type of fill that is currently at the site is not illegal, and all of the illegally-dumped material has been removed by Community Services.

c. *2623 Markham* – They are in the process of issuing a citation.

Sheilla also gave updates on upcoming changes that will be occurring. The housing and premise people will be combined so that they can deal with more issues at once. They are also trying to get a law allowing them to cite the property, not the owner. They are also trying to get the ability to mail citations.

5) Becky Kilmer gave an update on the dump site at the School of the Deaf. The big appliances that had been littering the site have been removed. However, it appears that the school is still dumping concrete and trees in the area, which is blocking the creek.

6) The election was held for the remaining neighborhood association officers. Stephen Stricklin will serve as the President and Becky Kilmer has agreed to serve as the Vice President. (Thank you to you both!!)

7) Robert presented about the Safe Routes to School Program, and he is wanting to have the Highway Department modify the I-630 pedestrian overpass to include some kind of wall and roof material. Some attendees expressed concerns about the lack of school/PTA involvement and the lack of knowledge of what they want or need. It was also recommended that he draft a letter for review at the next meeting.

8) Becky Kilmer announced that the Quaker Meeting House on Markham Street will be hosting a chili supper at 5:30 p.m. on March 1st.

The meeting was adjourned.