

ACNA Meeting Minutes April 22, 2014

The meeting of the Allen County Neighborhood Association was held on April 22, 2014 at 7:00pm in the Omni Room in the Garden Level of the Citizen Square Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Dan McCrea, ACNA Leader. Forty-two residents were in attendance along with Nelson Peters, County Commissioner.

Dan began the meeting by introducing Commissioner Nelson Peters.

Nelson Peters:

Mr. Peters began the night by updating the group on items he has been working on recently:

- Comcast and Community Involvement
- Volunteerism – return to your community!
- Allen County:
 - o \$30 million from Governor Pence and the State for Lafayette extension from I-69 to Huntington
 - o Possible development south of the GM Plant that will put approximately 600 people to work
 - o Current jobs report shows the unemployment rate in Allen County to be 5.7% (it was close to 9% in 2008)
 - o Updating the Permitting System with Councilman Roy Buskirk
 - o Early voting for the May 2014 Primary Elections ongoing

Jorge Ortiz:

Mr. Ortiz introduced himself as Senator Joe Donnelly's Regional Director for the Fort Wayne office. Mr. Ortiz told the attendees that if they had any questions or needed any help from the Senator, he can be contacted at his office at 260-420-4955 or in person at the office in the Anthony Wayne Building

Joe Lawrence:

Joe Lawrence from the Glenwood Park Association presented next. Joe informed the group that Glenwood had 630 residents, four churches and includes Snider High School in its boundaries. Joe's presentation was titled "Emergency Preparedness in the Glenwood Park Association".

The Glenwood Park residents have been working on their emergency preparedness since 2009. Joe stated that your neighbors will be your First Responders in the event of a disaster. Preparation is crucial before the disaster occurs. The first 72 hours after a disaster are the most important. Collaboration is far better than those who compete! Prepare your resources before the disaster. FEMA Director Craig Fugate said: "Winging it is not an emergency plan!"

The Glenwood Park Neighborhood began their preparations after the Christmas 2008 ice storm. Many residents were without power for an extended period during this storm.

- January 2009: First Board Meeting
- July 2009: Communication Plan initiated. Family Radio Service (FRS) radio training began. Monthly tests are conducted at 8:00pm on the first Wednesday of every month.
- October 2009: Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) held their first full scale exercise, followed by a newsletter detailing ways for families to prepare for disasters.
- September 2011: A presentation was made to two City Council members. Disaster kits were handed out to those in attendance.
- November 2012: Association Board budget meeting held. \$250 was given to purchase additional FRS radios.
- February 2013: Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) Program introduced. Modeled from a Washington State program. The program contains a nine-step plan for actions to take immediately following a disaster.
- March 2013: Preparedness Fair held. The Red Cross, CERT and representatives from survival food companies were all present. "Bug Out" 72-hour kits were handed out to those attending.
- August 2013: Emergency Preparedness questionnaire and response surveys handed out to all residents.
- September 2013: Annual Meeting held. A customized video was crafted directly pertaining to the Glenwood Park Association and the MYN program was discussed.
- September 2013 / October 2013: Collection of the surveys and compilation of the results.

Joe then presented the group the **video** that was crafted by the Association. He also presented handouts to the group: Emergency Preparedness Survey; MYN; Disaster Dozen: 12 Myths of Disaster Preparedness.

Joe stated that the association received a 25% completed survey response and forty residents became members of emergency teams. He stated that more drills have not been conducted as of this time but through this disaster preparation, they are building working relationships amongst themselves and are helping the community come together.

Janet Mitchell:

Janet Mitchell, a Fort Wayne lawyer and certified mediator, presented next. She gave the group methods that association leaders can use to improve communication skills and to help solve problems and issues in one's neighborhood. In over 27 years of practice, she has mediated over 2000 disputes. She is currently working with Indiana Tech to return a Law School Mediation Program. Her first handout was a form for an upcoming 40-Hour Mediation Training session that will be conducted in Fort Wayne on July 17-21.

Janet's PowerPoint Presentation was handed out to the group. Bullet points were:

- Neighborhood Conflict
- Types of Conflict
- Escalation of Conflict
- De-escalation of Conflict
- Analyzing Conflict
- Understanding Conflict
- How to React to Conflict
- Improving your Conflict Communication Skills
- Separate the Issue from the Person
- Avoid Hot Button Phrases
- Paraphrase
- State your Preference and/or your Purpose
- Summarize
- Validate
- Body Language
- Conflict Summary
- Common Ground Mediation Process

Janet stated that if a Law School Mediation Group was formed, it could be used by associations by calling and setting up mediation sessions and conducting panels for mediators to hold sessions.

A question was asked: What if residents won't attend the mediation? Janet stated that 50% say yes and 50% say no. Of the 50% of those who do attend mediation sessions, 95% reach an agreement.

Closing:

- Attendee stated that scrappers are beneficial to neighborhoods and act as trash collectors
- Attendee stated to closely look over your Property Tax bills and how Assessors calculate your property value. Make sure they are using fair value to calculate the taxes.

The meeting was closed at 8:30pm. The next meeting is scheduled for **July 22nd** at 7:00pm in the Omni Room on the Garden Level of the Citizen Square Building, 200 E. Berry St.