

SMART GROWTH MINUTES

May 18, 2010

The Smart Growth Group met in the Central Library Browning Room A at 9:15 a.m.

Attendees:

Fred Padgett, Westside Improvement Assoc.
Blaine Oliver, Area Plan
Dona Bergman, SEEK Director
Laura Lamb, Evansville MPO
Bonnie Bittner, SWCD Executive Assistant

Lindsay Martinez, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Davie Sue Litov, SWCD Chairman
Brad Cronin (APC) Intern
Derrick Ohning, Director Evansville EPA

Laura Lamb opened the meeting asking member to introduce themselves to the new members present. She then asked members to review a copy in their packets of "Turning parking spots into parks". There also was a copy of the November 12, 2009 minutes for review.

Blaine gave an overview of the Walk & Roll Week activities encouraging people to participate. He also mentioned Evansville Area Trails Summit Invitation which will be held on June 19, 2010. Dona Bergman announced her new Department of Sustainability, Energy and Environmental Quality (S.E.E.Q.) Dona talked about the website and what she intends to put on now and in the future. She asked members to let her know if they wanted to be on her green list. Discussion on possible green space ideas:

- When sidewalks are torn out to replace there could be a possibility to work in green space
- Any public project redesign; check if green space is a possibility
- Ask City Engineer, Water & Sewer Department to be on board
- Ordinance requiring a percentage of green space in any project

Riparian Buffers were discussed in the November meeting and members agreed on changes which were to be typed in and review at the next meeting. Due to the significant amount of time between meetings this was overlooked. Blaine said he would forward a Planners Guide to Wetland Buffers to Bonnie for her to send out to the group.

Different options for zoning ordinance was discussed, the pros and cons of what is going on presently. The Comprehensive Plan, Ordinances and variances were discussed and what does or does not need to be done.

To wrap up Blaine ask Bonnie to send members a copy of the Planners Guide to Wetland Buffers, the floodway map and the Riparian Buffer draft document which should be reviewed before the next meeting.

Davie Sue gave an update on what is being done to the Kudzu sites in Vanderburgh County. She also told members about the upcoming Native & Invasive Plant conference the Vanderburgh County Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting on June 19, 2010, 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the University of Evansville. The conference speakers are Dr. Douglas Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home", Sharon Sorenson, Local author, birder, wildlife habitat expert and restored Goosepond Fish and Wildlife Area Observer & Dr. Edith Hardcastle, Associate Professor, University of Southern IN, Botanist and Native Plant Expert.

Members decided to have the Smart Growth Meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Dona Bergman will check to see if we can meet each month on that date and time in the C.K. Newsome Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Bonnie Bittner, Executive Assistant
Vanderburgh County SWCD