

Allen County **Homeowners Association**

MEETING OF TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. in the Omni Room of the City-County Building by ACHA Coordinators Kris Krishnan and Joanne Bergman. 24 people attended the meeting. Guests included Dawn Ritchie, Rivergreenways Project Manager; Jeff Baxter, Allen County Parks Director; and Dan Avery, Director of the Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council.

Kris began the meeting by announcing that the Allen County Commissioners office would be willing to pay registration fees and travel reimbursement for up to four people to attend the 2008 Regional Neighborhood Network Conference on October 2-4 in Lima, Ohio. Anyone interested was asked to contact Mike Green, County Public Information Director.

First to make a presentation was Dawn Ritchie, Manager of the Rivergreenways Project. While the project is managed by the City of Fort Wayne, Dawn explained that Allen County government has also been involved in helping develop trails outside the city limits. Dawn talked about the many benefits the Rivergreenways has to offer, including:

- Helps with flood mitigation
- Provides and opportunity to improve fitness and health
- Allows a safer, alternative mode of transportation
- Links neighborhoods to points of destination
- Increases tourism
- Adds to property values
- Supports economic development

Next to speak was County Parks Director Jeff Baxter. He explained that Allen County Parks are owned by the people of Allen County and are operated by

the volunteer members of the Allen County Parks Board, who are appointed by area public and elected officials. Allen County Parks are funded by Allen County government and by user fees, facility rentals, program fees, grants, donations and gifts. Staff salaries are provided by county tax revenues, with all operating and maintenance expenses are self generated through user fees and other sources.

Jeff also detailed what is available at the four county parks. Fox Island is a 605-acre park located in southwest Allen County. 270 acres are dedicated as State Nature Preserve. Other amenities include a Nature Center, a bird observation building, and the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society Observatory. Metea County Park is a 250-acre park in north central Allen County near Leo-Cedarville, containing the 120-acre Meno-aki State Nature Preserve. Metea also serves as home to the Gloria Goeglein Nature Center. Cook's Landing County Park is a small park located in northern Allen County. This park has great access to Cedar Creek for fishing and canoeing. Finally Payton County Park, located in northern Allen County just east of State Road 3, has a mix of open fields, woodlands and wetlands which provides the solitude of the rural countryside.

The night's final presentation was made by Dan Avery, Director of the Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council. Dan discussed several major highway projects currently under construction, along with a number of projects slated for work in the NIRCC 2030 Transportation Plan. He also explained the methodology used to help determine the feasibility and need for certain highway projects. Along with answering several questions from attendees, Dan also passed out cards and asked audience members to write down what they felt were areas in Allen County that need the attention of transportation planners in the future. Dan said hearings will be held soon as part of work to update the 2030 Transportation Plan, and he hopes neighborhood associations will attend and offer their input.

During the open forum portion of the meeting, Kris mentioned the formation of a steering committee which will help in determining future goals and objectives of the ACHA. In addition, Kris mentioned that some people though changing the group's name to "Allen County Neighborhoods Association" would

better define what the organization is about. On a voice vote, the name change was approved. Finally, Joanne announced that the October 28 meeting would feature some local attorneys who will discuss neighborhood association covenants and by-laws along with County Recorder John McGauley, who will talk about how his office handles such documents. She asked that those wishing to attend pre-register by emailing herself or Kris or by calling the Public Information Office so we have an idea of how many people are expected to attend. Required registration information will be placed on the ACHA web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.