

WOODLAWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETING

March 13, 2008

Meeting called to order:

President Debbie Oaks of Debbie Oaks Automotive called the meeting to order.

Introductions: New Secretary, Vanessa M. Jones introduced

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes read by-Michelle Bunn

Minutes submitted and approved

Business News:

President, Debbie Oaks stated that there is a New YWCA underway in the Woodlawn Community in conjunction with Interfaith Ministries. It will consist of a shelter type transitional housing and self help programs. No business members were in attendance at the ground breaking. This project will encompass a few current apartments along with new buildings on vacant lots on 1st Avenue north, 1st Avenue South, and Georgia Road.

Nechelle Dawson presented news from the Airport Authority. Volkert Construction was handling the building projects associated with the airport. The airport would also like to establish a steering committees for stockholders to give input on plans for use of airport boundary projects i.e. What type of businesses would you like to see in the area or other uses for the land.

There is \$3,000,000 funding available for Phases 5,6,7,8 from the Airport Authority. Areas bounding north Woodlawn will be concentrated on more during these phases. New street have also been developed on the other side of Pemco- between Holiday Inn and it leads out to Tallapoosa. New road creates new area around Cargo Area Complex

Carry Over Business

Business owner next to the agreed to repair owning and he is continuing to repair building woodwork. WBA funds were offered to help in order to maintain image of downtown Woodlawn.

Crime Watch/ Prevention

At the last meeting Main Street discussed ways the WBA could display banners to let the community know that they are promoting a safe and crime free business community.

Alan began the discussion: Promoting business watch programs. The floor was opened for discussion)

- (1) Limited funds can be utilized
- (2) Concern for concept or imaged portrayed to community with banners.
- (3) Projecting image of safety or crime
- (4) Creating curb appeal (boundary around planters)

Ms. Oaks encouraged the WBA to do something to for the business community even if it's short term although the last project to plant flowers failed/ planters problem. Also, other attempts to develop a successful watch have failed she reiterated that this is the time and more effective if we do it now.

The WBA decided to work on banners and slogans
A (grand banner) is probably not possible because of the red tape involved. A suggestion was made to consider other corner signs.

One suggestion: "WE ARE WATCHING WOODLAWN"
Ms. Dawson and others expressed concerns about sending a negative message to new businesses and prospective home owners.

Ms. Oaks asked Kenneth Stovall (Holiday Inn General Manager and Business Block Captain) to come up with a plan for Banner Concept. Ken offered to host lunch, etc. to discuss whatever that can be done to welcome business to community. The committee luncheon is scheduled for April 15th- lunch Holiday Inn 12:00. The secretary will send out reminders on April 13th and 14th.

New Business:

Mary Haynie, Community Program Director, introduced the new extension program in space 1-11 after school arts program (Franklin Building - 1st Avenue North). It is now open and it is advertising art classes. (Visual impact with art displays/)

Alan Gillespie & the president raise concerns about the WBA's mail being routed to different locations. Currently, there is no one address or P.O. Box for WBA.

Ms. Oaks opened the floor for votes to get an official P.O. Box at a local post office. All members agreed by vote. A P.O. Box will be used and a monthly fee will be paid for the use by the Woodlawn Business Association.

The president asked how the WBA will pay for items such as P.O. Boxes - how is it handled? Mr. Earnest Lumpkin of Regions Bank stated that a debit card could be used and there is one available for the Woodlawn Business Association.
Mr. Stovall also suggested that WBA come up with some type of system to contact police. Mr. Stovall will also locate other businesses with a successful business watch to visit as a model for WBA's block watch.

It was presented that the Mayor is looking for a steering committee from the business community. More information will be given on this committee at the next WBA meeting.

Next Meeting: May 8th/10:00 A.M. (Woodlawn Public Library) – a new schedule will be set at this time for the businesses to meet once a month.

Minutes for Main street Birmingham will be sent to:

Adrienne Stevens - A Stevens@mainstreetbham.org 595-0562 and Droaks@aol.com 510-0100

Closing:

The President asked for further questions or concerns – none raised

Meeting adjourned 11:42A.M.

Minutes submitted by: Vanessa M. Jones
Secretary
Woodlawn Business Association