

Woodlawn Business Association  
1/10/08

Meeting was called to order by President Alan Gillespie. Michelle Bunn who is our Vice President for 2008 should be joining us in just a few minutes.

Introductions by all in attendance.

Minutes were read and approved.

Introduction by those who entered the room later.

A date to visit the Holiday Inn Airport will be set, Marilyn will send out an e-mail letting all the members know when that date and time will be.

McDonald did decide to stay, their building a brand new building in the same place.

Alan and David talked about the interest of Artist coming to the area, a real positive. The negative is the old Piggly Wiggly, don't see that changing. We understand they still own the building and retain their share of the grocery business; another grocery store will not go in. The Mason Building is moving forward. The guys that bought the Mason Bldg. will make office space out of it. Hopefully they will fill that building soon. The guy that bought the buildings, where the old Family Dollar is, still has those buildings and still planning to put the infrastructure in for a restaurant. He and I talked with Mayor Langford and he is in support. We presented the idea of more financing, making it more long term than short. Family Dollar still has environmental issues. They have until the end of February to make a decision.

President Gillespie encouraged payment of annual Association dues. This is our only means of income right now. Promoting the area will cost money, so fund raising will be necessary.

Our new '08 Officers are President Debbie Oaks; Vice President Michelle Bunn; Secretary Mrs. Vanessa Jones w/Woodlawn High School and Treasure is Earnest Lumpkin.

Main Street is putting on their second workshop on 1/18/08 at Avondale United Methodist Church. The cost of the workshop is \$10.00, plus an additional \$5.00 for lunch. We have pamphlets here if you are interested.

Business Plan was presented to everyone by President Gillespie. He asks for comments from the members on the projects before moving forward with them. There are (3) elements of the program we want to promote in 2008. (1) Promote Woodlawn Merchants Association. (2) Promote a Business Watch and Crime Prevention Program. It was mentioned that crime is the biggest concern in the area. (3) Promote Business in the

Woodlawn District, Patron and recruiting. We should ask the Mayor for more Police protection and other things to do that would help. Lighting was mentioned and the answer was you have to be persistent in calling 311 and asking them for it. David says it has been discussed with the Mayor's office to put new lighting in the area.

Mrs. Brown with the Birmingham Police Department reported the officers are riding through the area making a list of addresses that need more lighting. (Group discussion)

The perception of the area is what mainly happens at night. Business Watch was explained by Alan and stated our focus needs to be on the immediate area, Woodlawn, Crestwood and Eastlake.

Annie Brown suggested a neighborhood Yahoo page to report robbery, burglary and what ever is going on. Main Street Bham.org will show you what is going on. We will also post other things like the minutes from the Woodlawn Business Association meetings.

Sims Smith, February 20<sup>th</sup> is Woodlawn Business and Associates breakfast at the High School.

Debbie Oaks will put out information on the next meeting in March.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.