

General Meeting of Bradford Park Neighborhood

April 18, 2017 6:30pm

Meeting Room A

Immaculate Conception Church

The meeting was preceded by a show of support for the Police Department. The members of the neighborhood lined up at the intersection of Fremont Street and Primrose Avenue, dressed in blue and carrying signs showing support for Springfield Police, Fire Department and Military. Many cars honked their horns and gave us the “thumbs up” sign.

After the Rally, the members retired to the meeting room for a sandwich and snack supper provided by the Neighborhood Association.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Dellene Nelson. There were twenty members present and 3 members of Springfield Police. The first speaker of the evening was Officer Schlup our PAR Officer. He asked the members present if there were any complaints from the neighborhood. Hadley Ford said he would like someone to check on the speeding that occurs from parents dropping off children at the school and then speeding through the neighborhood. Dellene Nelson and Ed Messerly asked if there has been any progress in construction of continuous sidewalks along Delaware Avenue. There are several residents using wheelchairs living at the apartment complex who are forced to use the street because the sidewalk is separated by several areas of grass and dirt along the street. The Officers said they would see what progress is being made in those areas.

In the area of crime in the neighborhood, the officers said that a lot of the crime occurs when cars are stolen or broken in to. The residents can help the police by not leaving valuables in their cars and by locking the cars if they must remain on the street or driveways. Helping the police in this manner will not only prevent a lot of impulse crimes but allow the police to focus on more important crime such as crimes against people rather than crimes involving property.

The second speaker of the evening was Mike Crocker who has been at the Springfield Dickerson Park Zoo for forty-one years and is now director of the Zoo.

The Zoo has increased their budget from a few thousand dollars when he started to \$3.9 million dollars at the present time. The zoo spends \$190,000 yearly for animal feed. There have been several remodels usually involving making the zoo more comfortable for the animals and accessible for people. The zoo has its own veterinarian who is certified in exotic animal care. The zoo not only houses and cares for animals, but gives tours behind the scenes to show how the animals are cared for. The zoo also provides internships to students who need practical experience in animal care to complete college degree programs. Many college students come from University of Missouri in Columbia and are housed in dormitories as they complete their 150 hour intern or shadow program for a “captive animal minor”. The Zoo houses 150 species of animals and keeps 600 animals at the facility.

The zoo must pass an accreditation review every five years to make sure the animals welfare is tended to. The zoo tries to acquire animals that increase the earth’s biodiversity. Even turtles are protected to prevent the cultures who treat turtle meat as a delicacy from erasing the species from the planet.

Dr. Crocker brought two animals with him to the meeting. As he has a fondness for reptiles, he brought a blue tongued skink and a large red and white snake to the meeting for us to pet.

After thanking our speakers, we continued on with the meeting. The annual neighborhood cleanup will be on Saturday April 29th. The volunteers who offered to drive trucks to pick up materials that neighbors can’t transport to the dumpster will start at 7:30am at Dellene’s house.

Ed Messerly reported that there is currently \$6948 in the treasury.

The meeting was adjourned with a plea from the current president to encourage friends and neighbors to be involved with helping the association in any little way they can. There is a lot of unseen and unnoticed activity that goes on between meetings that can use volunteers to help.

Respectfully Submitted

Jacqueline Ford