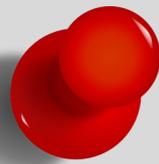


July 2014

Muncie Action Plan 2



MAP Reading

Muncie in Transition

Welcome Kelly Shrock to the MAP Board

An effective tool for MAP has long been experienced and active professionals on its Board of Directors. The newest member of the Board - Kelly Shrock - is just that. Kelly is currently the President of The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Inc. Kelly is a Certified Fundraising Executive with 24 years of professional leadership experience with nonprofit organizations in Nevada, Ohio, and also with Ball State. Her particular interest with MAP is developing mentoring resources in the community for youth and also with our young professionals. Her view is that "...mentoring the next generation of leaders will support growth of quality of life in Muncie." She and Board member Cornelius Dollison are working together to develop a MAP mentoring program. Originally from West Lafayette, Kelly is a BSU alumna with a history of and ability to develop collaborative efforts in a variety of environments. Her family includes her husband Joel, who will become of the Dean of Humanities at Anderson University in the fall, and three sons (one of whom just got his drivers permit). MAP Co-chair Donna Browne said "Kelly's broad knowledge of the many initiatives and organizations at work in Muncie allows her to see how people can work together and also where are gaps in services. That's a tremendous asset to MAP.

Downtown Revitalization

As reported in The Star Press, retirement living is about to get a boon downtown. The former

historic Hotel Roberts will be re-opened as the Lofts at the Roberts

with a grand opening on July 2 at 2:30 p.m. Developer Miller-Valentine has repurposed the hotel as 83 apartments for retirees 55 and over. With greater mobility and disposable income than previous generations, current retirees can bring more foot traffic and spending to Muncie's downtown. This new business will be complemented by a new downtown hotel, Arc of Indiana's Courtyard By Marriot. Planned to be constructed just south of the Children's Museum, this hotel will not only serve to house Convention Center guests but will be a hospitality

training center as well for people with disabilities.



These new establishments may be receiving an extra bonus as the city has been investigating a quiet zone along the railroad tracks from 9th Street, through downtown, to Council Street in the Old West End. This alteration will definitely have a positive impact on both establishments. On the other side of down-

town, Cullen J. Davis Development in partnership with Meridian Health Services is constructing a 44-unit apartment complex. At Walnut and Wysor this new apartment building will be permanent supportive housing for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. Upon completion they plan on targeting disabled veterans to provide a quality of housing. Earlier in June, the Old West End neighborhood saw the opening of two more newly built and newly rehabbed homes by Muncie Homeownership. All of these projects continue the emphasis on Downtown Planning from MAP's original Task Force 4 downtown plan initiative.



Non-Profits Collaborate for Kids

Motivate our Minds and the Buley Center have come together to offer a summer camp for kids unlike any before. The Star Press reported in June that the maximum capacity for this camp has been reached, with 150 children from kindergarten to the eighth grade. The activities have been themed from various continents to promote diversity. Numerous activities have been planned that provide for

not only education but exercise and fun as well. The camp will



last eight weeks and

will have activities such as field trips,

dodge-ball, face painting, wall climbing, theater, and even a carnival. This isn't just a big impact for the children either, organizers working together have been rewarded and this camp will be twice as long and twice as large as the Buley Center's usual camp.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Anthony-Northside - Wednesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Kennedy Library.

Blaine/Southeast - Tuesday, July 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Serenity Club, 1218 S. Brotherton.

East Central - Sunday, July 6, 6 p.m. at Blood and Fire, 300 N. Madison

Forest Park - Thursday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Delaware County Senior Citizens Center, 2517 W. 8th.

Halteman Village Neighborhood Meeting - Tuesday, July 1 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, 4401 N. Wheeling.

Indian Village - Thursday, July 3 at 6 p.m. at Pilgrim Holiness Academy, 2720 Apache Pass.

Industry - Thursday, July 24 at 6:00 p.m., Price Hall, 704 S. Madison St.

Minnetrista Central Neighborhood Association - Tuesday, July 1 at 7 p.m. at Minnetrista.

Old West End - Tuesday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dining Room, Friends Memorial Church, 418 W. Adams.

Riverside/Normal City - Wednesday, July 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Hazelwood Christian Church Fellowship House (Mansion), 1400 University.

South Central - Tuesday, July 24, at 7:00 p.m. at Urban Light Education Center.

Thomas Park/Avondale - Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Ross Center, 1110 W. 10th.

Western Woods, Wednesday July 2 at 6 p.m. at West View Elementary, 3401 W. Gilbert.

Whitely - Monday, July 14, 5:30 p.m., Muncie Area Career Center, 2500 N. Elgin.

Corridor Development Standards

Muncie City Council approved this spring new corridor development standards for major corridors in Muncie that will affect the height of pole signs, building setbacks, parking layouts and landscaping. This was an outcome of the original MAP process where people identified McGalliard in particular as a weak place (or worse) from an aesthetic perspective. At the June Board of Zoning Appeals meeting there were the first challenges to the new ordinance, both primarily involving pole signs. The BZA, after hearing statements from several people including MAP representatives, denied the appeals although they approved several other facets of the appeals that appeared reasonable.

Kenmore Neighborhood Meeting

The Kenmore Neighborhood Association met for two hours on Saturday at 2 p.m. Paul Spengler (Vice President) and Steve Kendall (President) led the meeting. They had good attendance and discussion. The primary focus of the meeting was IMP's proposed Tillotson substation replacement (other than the matter of having to elect a new KNA president, because Steve Kendall is moving to Philadelphia). They presented the basic history of the efforts, since August 2012, to address the very negative impacts the proposed project would have. In summary (as reported in the Muncie Star Press May 31, 2014) IMP will be submitting an omnibus infrastructure plan to the IURC (Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission), including a GIS (Gas Insulated Switchgear) substation to replace the now obsolete Tillotson substation. The biggest issues have been the location of the replacement facility, and whether the facility would be a very large "open air" (like all others in Muncie, but much bigger) or a more compact, and initially more expensive, enclosed GIS substation. The argument has been made to IMP over the past 2 years - by KNA, BSU, the City Council and the Tyler Administration - that constructing a large open air facility (larger than the one at Wysor) would be very detrimental to the neighborhood's property values, and would be totally incompatible with its location on a main Muncie traffic corridor and across from one of the main entrances to BSU and the IUBMH. There is hope, should the IURC approve the GIS scheme, that further improvements can be made to the precise siting and design of the facility to further reduce its negative impacts before anticipated construction in late 2015. Jim Turner, an attorney and former COO of Duke Energy and the former Utility Consumer Counselor of Indiana (and the son of a KNA resident) discussed how regulated utilities operate and how the IURC reviews infrastructure plans and made recommendations on how to remain vigilant.

