

COURTHOUSE AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Steering Committee
April 26, 1994

Present: Joyce & Bill Anderson, Frank Council, Linda Muldoon, Dan Hulbert, Bruce Ladewig, Chris Sager, Ann Sager, Margo Chadwick, Sally Johnson, and Sue Martinson. Meg Casey being unable to attend, Sue Martinson served as recorder. Guests attending later in the meeting included County Supervisors Joe Griesbach, Gene Kloes, and City Alderman Walter Kalata.

1. Minutes of 3/29/94 were approved.
2. First order of business was asking for an association treasurer; Jackie was nominated and accepted. The Organizational Committee will be meeting this Thursday, April 28, at 5 p.m. at Frank's house. Anyone with concerns about the Articles of Incorporation is welcome to attend as well. Frank noted that Mary Beth Laux had raised a concern about the Articles of Incorporation restricting homeowners who may not be able to afford to maintain their homes. Linda shared this concern, and also asked about a "disclaimer" in regard to individuals not being held responsible for the actions of this association. Bruce and others asked for further clarification before voting on the issue. Anyone with specific questions for Attorney Kathleen Arthur may contact her directly at the address at the bottom of the document. Frank will contact her regarding a possible meeting or conference call. It is important to note that the plan for incorporation allows for acting as a vehicle for the rescue of properties and the passing on/sale of those properties to parties who are interested in maintaining their historic integrity. While we would not have to acquire property, this would outline our position should that ever happen. While this document would not impact building codes, etc., a Historic Preservation Ordinance probably would. The future bylaws of our association will be discussed when the Organizing Committee meets next. The Steering Committee will vote on the Articles, etc., at the next meeting. Bill moved that the \$70 filing fee be paid by Steering Committee members, and Linda seconded. Each individual can get their \$5-6 to our new treasurer, Jackie. We can now accept monetary donations, and Jackie will be looking into opening a bank account.
3. In regard to Historical Research, Linda first read us a passage on the county's use of the courthouse from the 1920's. Sounds like they had problems then too! She also pointed out the articles in the Post-Crescent on Ken Theine's election as the President of the Transportation Development Association, and on the West Ramp issue.
4. Guests Joe Griesbach and Gene Kloes arrived at this point, and Mr. Kloes began by giving us some background information on the decisions made about the courthouse and its space problems in the past. Discussion continued on a variety of issues associated with the city/county/neighborhood relationship. Mr. Kloes feels East-Central's study may have limited recommendations, and that leasing the West Ramp (Proposition 12) may or may not solve the problem.

He felt that the smart thing for the county to do, if it is proven they have sufficient parking currently, would be to sell existing surface parking property to a private organization and lease it. Bruce later suggested that our association may want to consider being that private organization. Since an issue cannot be introduced twice during one session, Mr. Kloes asked if we would like to have Proposition 12 reconsidered. If we did not take this opportunity, the issue would be dead until at least next March. Mr. Kloes believes that five or six more votes would help make significant progress toward getting a study by the Property Committee or an ad hoc committee. It was felt that the issue was not discussed seriously, as supervisors may have been waiting for East-Central's recommendations. Bruce moved and Bill seconded that we support a reconsideration effort. While the voting down of this proposition may or may not be a vote against our neighborhood, it was agreed that we should attend and speak at the May 10 meeting of the County Board where the matter will be discussed. Please see Frank for a voting record, so that you may call/write to bug those voting against the proposition and call/write to thank those voting for this. Frank also has calling lists for neighborhood residents and newsletters to be distributed; please get the word out that support is needed at the May 10th meeting. Bruce suggested we write a personal note at the bottom of the newsletters letting people know it is May 10, at 6 p.m. at the Courthouse. Your name will need to be submitted to the Sergeant at Arms on the way into the room if you'd like to speak. We are trying to stress that we want discussion and consideration of Proposition 12. Walter Kalata added that he will continue to remind Mayor DeBroux about the value of a Historic Preservation Ordinance.

5. Although Bill & Joyce had to leave, Frank reported Bill's findings on the property values. This year's numbers are not available until August, but the most recent valuations of the neighborhood come to about \$3 million; \$100,000 is collected in taxes each year from these homes currently. It was noted that these figures do not take into account the homes that have already been lost or the devaluation of those remaining.
6. Frank reported that he did have a telephone conversation with Carol Hausserman regarding the home (the oldest in Appleton) she owns as a rental property. She was unreceptive to our position and defended her tenant. While she did agree to drive by the property at some point, that was about the extent of her plan of involvement.
7. The next Steering Committee meeting will be at Jackie's house at 410 West Prospect (entrance is on Fifth Street) on Monday, May 9, at 6 p.m. This will be an opportunity to refine our strategy for speaking at the meeting at the courthouse.

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