

11-7-05

BNA, Inc. Meeting Minutes

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST WITH MAYOR ABRAMSON - A COLLABORATION OF NEIGHBORS AND BUSINESSES

Present: Neighbors & Members from BNA, Inc., PABA, PLBA, Mayor Abramson, Jim King, Rob Holzman,

Jim Wayne, Denise Harper-Angel and too many others to list.

President of BNA, Liz Daumbaugh-Martin introduced BNA along with Robbie Gibson of Preston Area Business Association, and Patti Atkins of Poplar Level Business Association. The meeting was hosted with the efforts of all of these Associations. Liz welcomed everyone who attended and the excitement of everyone because of the Guest Speaker & Great Mayor Jerry Abramson.

Mayor Abramson and along with Jim King presented a gift of \$3,000 to Patti Atkins of Poplar Level Business Association to replace the old PLBA banners along Poplar Level Road.

Mayor Abramson introduced the Louisville A to Z Book by Liz and Monte Martin, as the BNA, Inc. fundraiser.

The Mayor is now using the book for his handout when doing the Every 1 Reads Program. He also noted the "P" for progress with the Preston Highway Corridor Photo. The mayor introduced our elected officials in attendance. Metro Councilman Jim King of District 10, State Representative Jim Wayne, State Senator Denise Harper-Angel. The Mayor suggested to get to know your representatives and contact them if needed, they are available and responsible.

Mayor Abramson continued his discussion, speaking about how Metro Louisville created a structure to work with Associations and Businesses in need of support investment. The Metro Louisville has formed a program called "COOL", Corridors of Opportunity of Louisville. John Fisher is the director who works with neighbors and business associations to find out what folks want in their area and to draw the commercial business into the corridors. The "COOL" program was instrumental in bringing the Dollar Daze store to the Hess Lane location.

Mayor Abramson told about Jim King taking him for a ride through District 10 and showing him what we need. Jim King secured a \$45,000 dollar commitment for planning and design of Preston Corridor, plus additional funds to make these things happen. He spoke of Jim King being able to connect with the railroad (something the Mayor had not been able to do). The railroad has agreed to work with us to begin clean up and landscape. The roots are there and beginning to grow. The leadership of councilman and business create the opportunity for us to feel positive and get better. Better sooner than later and it will be an area that has real opportunity for investment and for the appropriate kind of growth to support the surrounding neighborhoods.

Mayor Abramson explained about closed businesses and vacant buildings. These buildings usually stay

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closed because the landlords are still receiving rent from the previous tenants and as long as they are receiving rent, they are not in a hurry to fill the vacant buildings.

Metro Louisville provides Metco Loans for small business start up, expansion & facade loans which are available for Preston & Poplar Level Road Businesses. Drew Shyrock is the money man and Wally Diener helps to connect business owners. Metro Louisville has all the right pieces in place to help small businesses upgrade with loans and the COOL Program.

The KY Department of Transportation on Phillips Lane will be moving, allowing the KY Fair & Exposition Center more room for expansion. The relocation will be within 2 years to Westport Road.

The Mayor spoke about the pothole program he started last year. He learned then, that a lot of roads in the community are controlled by the state. As a result when road repairs are done, if it is a state road, the KY Dept. of Transportation is contacted. If it is a city owned road, the city is contacted. The Mayor is working on an agreement so the city can help with some road repairs on State Roads with reimbursement from the State.

The Metro Louisville has a Dry Program with MSD, Drainage Response. MSD has areas planned for updates and have already updated many areas. There is a page for all districts with information about when the work will be done in those areas.

The Mayor concluded his conversation with the Fire Department comprehensive review, which appeared in the Courier-Journal. There is a plan to preserve the old buildings when and if the fire departments are relocated. When new facilities are built in areas, Metro Louisville will work with the neighbors and businesses to help get what is needed to fit into the area.

The Floor was opened up for general question for Mayor Abramson. A neighbor brought up a drainage problem he still has in front of his house. He was assured Jim King will assist in finding out when this will be done. The property where the old silos were was questioned. The plans for the property is to build warehouse on the back part of the property, leaving the front of the property open for development, with hopes the COOL Program can assist with this. There were other questions about the cleaning up of Phillips Lane, the sidewalk ramps at Thortons on Preston Hwy., and the reconstruction of I 64, the new bridges over the Ohio River, the Arena, parking downtown, the smoking ban, and the airport noise.

Liz Daumbaugh-Martin thanked the Mayor and Jim King for the funding of the Preston Corridor Improvement Efforts, and stated we were working with the State to do the same with the Physical part of the Highway. Liz asked the Mayor (since no one else had), to remember us in next years budget, since it is a long term plan. The Mayor assured Liz that Jim King would not let him forget.

Mayor Abramson gave the E-Mail address for anyone in government: first name.lastname@louisville.gov. The

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Mayor thanked us for the opportunity to be at our meeting.