



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

CHANGES, CHANGES

It was election time at the meeting on January 15th. The meeting wasn't well attended (the cold weather maybe?), so we proceeded with our election of three Directors anyway. Linda Ring was elected to a two-year term, and Kyle and Nate were both re-elected to the same. Maxine Gotto was named as Special Representative to the DNA for the next year. After the meeting, the new Board met to name officers and committees for the 2011. The officers are: Sharon Babbitt, President; Kyle Muschall, Vice President; Tracy Dreessen, Secretary; and John Huggins, Treasurer—yes, the same as last year but all capable officers. Some changes were made in the upcoming committees, as follows:

The Events Committee was eliminated and replaced by several specific Special Events Committees. The Picnic Committee will be chaired by Melissa Head; Flower Baskets by Michelle Mutchler-Burns; Holiday Bows by Linda Ring; Home Improvement Tour (no head yet); CURB Grant (Creating the Ultimate Residential Beautification) by Carol Mattox, with a slew of volunteers to work on it with her. The Membership Committee was eliminated and will be replaced by a different system yet to be decided. Neighborhood Clean-up was discussed and will be finalized prior to April.

At this time, the FPNA Board wishes to thank Amy Dixon, Maxine Gotto, and Michelle Mutchler-Burns for their fine work in their various positions in 2010. They have all agreed to help in different jobs because, well, that's the kind of people they are!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Dan McGinn has agreed to host our next FPNA meeting but the exact date has yet to be named. It will be somewhere toward the end of February or beginning of March. The April meeting will be hosted by John Huggins. When details are finalized, you will be the first to know.

LAME DUCKS

The last Board meeting was held in December. First order of business was to tour the neighborhood and decide on the winner(s) of the Exterior Holiday Decorating Contest. Results are shown below. In other business, decisions were made to:

- Apply for a grant or grants to begin implementation of IAF (Iowa Architects Foundation) recommendations;
- Continue budgeting on a calendar year basis;

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FPNA January 2011 Meeting



Photos by Carol Mattox

FPNA 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

It is the beginning of a new year and what better time than now to review what we've been up to for these last twelve months? And FPNA has been up to plenty! So many things have happened during this period that it is hard to sort them in the order of their importance, so we will just begin at the beginning and go to then end and then stop.

In the beginning, we decided to make neighborhood beautification our goal. We immediately applied for and received a grant from Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF), so that we could commission Bill Mann and Bob Pashek to create signs identifying our most historic homes. Bill and Bob created twenty masterpieces, which have received area-wide acclaim. The first signs were installed in June by some of our most reliable workers (Dave, John, Mike D. and Kyle). Since then, they have been photographed and featured in metro area publications, including the Iowa West Foundation's Annual Report and a feature story in the Neighborhood Center's newsletter.

Next, the National Park Service approved our application to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. A note of thanks for support from the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa West Foundation, Preserve Council Bluffs (formerly CBHPA), Tall Grass Historians, FPNA, and Mary Lou McGinn. It took years, but now the Park/Glen Historic District can stand alongside Lincoln/Fairview and Bluff/Willow/Third as one of the four NRHP districts in the city.

Our Yard of the Month program began with the May award, which went to Cindi Ostronic and John Kmiecik, 420 Glen; followed in June to Bob and Mary Eicher, 438 Huntington; then came July and Kim and Dave Kriegler, 310 Glen (a note here: Melva and Wayne Wood worked on the flower beds); and in August the award went to Carla and Denny Evans, 226 High School.

Our annual garage sale and accompanying bake sale took place on a rainy weekend in early June and, although it may not have been as financially lucrative as in the past, it still provided many of our neighbors a chance to clean out their closets and garages and make a little money.

Our third annual picnic was held at Lookout Point in July

and was very well attended. The weather was beautiful and the City had the Point in perfect condition; we felt lucky to have such a spot right on our boundary.

Many of our residents volunteered in September to help paint the stadium at Kirn Park. This was a two-day event and we worked alongside Parks Department employees, Mutual of Omaha volunteers, and other volunteers from the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association to get the first coat of paint on all sides of the stadium and the bleacher supports as well. The City completed the second coat but is reserving the trim painting for spring, when we will be called upon again to help beautify this historic structure.

The busy month of September also saw our first-ever Home Improvement Tour, where four of our historic homes were opened to the public. Our homeowners and volunteers helped educate the attendees to the joys and sorrows of home improvement and the FPNA made over \$1,000 for our treasury.

Our application for 501(c)3 nonprofit status was sent to the IRS in the fall. We anticipate that it will take many months for our application to be approved but we feel certain this status will be granted.

Then along came the architects from the Iowa Architectural Foundation of Des Moines to recommend ways of making our neighborhood appear more cohesive. We gave them that challenge, since our neighborhood is very diverse from a streetscape point of view. Their analysis will provide us with many projects for the future.

Of course, flower baskets went up in the spring and came down in the fall, and Christmas bows were installed in early winter. While we didn't reach our goal of flowers and bows on every pole, we did get a little closer. Maybe next year.

The winner of the 2010 Exterior Holiday Decorating Contest was Michelle Mutchler-Burns and Brian Burns, 407 Glen. Three honorable mentions were also named.

We used the occasion of our annual Christmas party to

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Mayor's Neighborhood Cabinet Notes

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

December 14, 2010

Wayfinding Presentation (Larry Foster – Parks & Recreation Director)

- Process has been going on about 1 ½ years
- Partnership including City Parks & Recreation, City Public Works, Iowa West Foundation, and the Chamber of Commerce
- Will be first successful attempt at wayfinding in metro area
- Large signs currently set at 4'4" wide by 6'6" tall
- Signs currently direct to four different areas - Historic Downtown (red), Mid-America Center (blue), Riverfront (Green), Manawa (orange, burnt orange)
- Total cost around \$200,000, currently have \$10,000 from the Chamber and \$40,000 from the City (from different department budgets), plus IWF will match up to \$70,000 (thus, current funds sit around \$100,000)
- Wayfinding proposal will be presented to City Council 2nd meeting in January
- The following Wednesday a public meeting will be held
- Kiosks possibly in Bayliss Park and 100 Block, but these are not currently in phase 1 due to lack of funding, still hoping to raise enough to include them

Council Bluffs – “Great Place”

- Council Bluffs designated as a “Great Place” as entire community
- A picture of a “wrap” was presented that will be on a truck to help draw people here

Local Crow

- On-line Community Collaboration
- www.localcrow.com
- Unique single entry calendar networking system provides the user the ability to network event across and entire town or a community of colleagues and associates who have events and activities
- Just shown to the group as a possibility that will be studied and considered, nothing has been done with this yet

City Bus Routes

- Discussion about a recent study/review that was completed on current bus routes in the City
- Bus routes will change
- Goal to get more people on buses
- Will be a public hearing sometime in January

Rental Inspections

- Trying to get some changes implemented for rental inspections at last City Council meeting – trying to make it more restrictive
- However, did not pass at City Council meeting, strong pressure from 60-70 landlords present at meeting



U.P. EXHIBIT

The Union Pacific's Abraham Lincoln Collection is on display January 18th thru March 2011 at the Union Pacific Railroad Museum. This collection ranges from silver, furniture, photography, documents and relics from the President's funeral. This Lincoln Collection is held in trust, by Union Pacific, for the American people. The Union Pacific Railroad Museum is proud to be stewards of this great collection and piece of America's past.

The Lincoln Collection is being presented in conjunction with the Durham Museum's "With Malice Towards None" Library of Congress exhibit which is nationally sponsored by Union Pacific. The Library of Congress exhibit includes two items from the Union Pacific Lincoln Collection.

To encourage visitors to see both exhibits, Union Pacific is sponsoring bus transportation between the Union Pacific Railroad Museum and the Durham Museum on Saturdays and Sundays beginning January 29th, 2011. Bus transportation will continue on the weekends through February 27, 2011; including President's Day, Monday February 21. The Union Pacific Railroad Museum will be open extended hours until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on February 21st. The extended hours will in effect from January 29th to February 27th, 2011. There is no admission fee charged to visit the Union Pacific Railroad Museum.

Union Pacific has longed recognized its connection to the Nation's 16th President. Abraham Lincoln created Union Pacific in 1862 by signing the first Pacific Railway Act. In 1866, Union Pacific purchased Lincoln's Presidential railcar with its furnishings which was used to transport the President's body to Springfield, Illinois for burial in 1865. Union Pacific discovered the silver from the Presidential car in 1922 in a company vault which resulted in the creation of their Museum recognizing the national importance of the company to American History. The Union Pacific Railroad Museum is located at 200 Pearl Street Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Regular Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday thru Saturday. Please call for more information 712-329-8307 or go online at www.uprrmuseum.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 18th thru March
Union Pacific Abraham Lincoln Collection
Union Pacific Railroad Museum

February 12th
Give Kids a Smile
Creighton School of Denistry

FPNA Meeting
Late February-Early March



"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him"

Abraham Lincoln

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

Order new membership banners and replace at no cost the ones that have faded;
Leave the maintenance of the vacant lot at 401 Park to the City of CB;
Utilize the present FPNA distribution list for emergency notifications;
Continue to try to meet the goal of flower baskets and bows on every utility pole.

EXTERIOR HOLIDAY DECORATING AWARDS

It was a tough decision but we have to be prepared to make those tough choices now and then! The Board toured the neighborhood both day and evening to make sure the wonderful light show visible by night would also translate to beauty by day. The unanimous choice for number one was the home of Michelle Mutchler-Burns and Brian Burns at 407 Glen. Congratulations to these homeowners! Along with this distinction, the winners received their name and address engraved on a traveling plaque and a check for \$100.00. We named three honorable mentions this year: Harold and Fran Beck at 198 Glen; Greg and Vicki Myers at 311 Park; and Vicki Coleman at 331 Park. Thank you all for contributing to the beauty of the season.

MEETING DATES

Most of the times and dates for FPNA meetings are set as far in advance as possible and usually fall on Friday, Saturday or Sunday evenings. However, from time to time we hear suggestions that some meetings could be held mid-week to accommodate those who have weekend plans, or even Saturday mornings. Accordingly, we have decided to conduct an informal survey to see what you all think.

Would you like to see a few meetings held mid-week? Yes or No.

Would you prefer that we continue with our weekend schedule? Yes or No.

Saturday morning? Yes or No.

Please e-mail Sharon at sbabbitt2@cox.net or call her at 323-5912 with your opinions. Thanks.

THE LAST WORD

Remember, friends, that the New Year also brings with it the need to pay our FPNA dues, which remain at the low rate of \$20 per household. With this money, we pay for our operating expenses, awards and unforeseen matters that may arise. In 2011 we are looking forward to obtaining a grant to begin implementing some of the recommendations made by the Iowa Architectural Foundation for the unification of our streetscapes. This may mean contributing from our own treasury toward this goal—that's what we've been saving for, as they say. By paying dues, we are able to be a part of our great neighborhood association—connected to each other. Thanks.

Until next time.....Sharon

GIVE KIDS A SMILE

Is a community program that provides dental education and preventive care for uninsured children ages 3 to 14. This year the event will be held on:

Saturday February 12 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon

at the Creighton University School of Dentistry (Boyer Building) 2802 Webster Street, Omaha NE.

Dental examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fluoride and dental sealants (cavity protection) will be available. Please call for an appointment at 402-280-2863. The event is sponsored by Creighton University School of Dentistry, The American Dental Association and the Give Kids A Smile Dental Access Program.

Tree Planting Program

Various partners in Council Bluffs have come together to bring a new program called Heart of the City to the community. The program allows residents to request a tree to be planted on public property in neighborhoods. All trees and the associated planting costs will be paid through donations from Black Hills Energy, MidAmerican Energy, Council Bluffs Trees Forever, Iowa Western Community College and the Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation Department. "We wanted to develop a program where we could affordably plant new trees all over the city," said John Batt, assistant director of Parks and Recreation. "Thanks to generous donations from various partners in the program, residents can request that a tree be placed in front of their house at no cost to them." The Heart of the City program has been developed in an effort to beautify local neighborhoods with trees. The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for residents of Council Bluffs to have a tree planted in their front parking or side parking. "This program offers an opportunity for residents to take an active role in beautifying their neighborhood," Batt said. Trees can only be placed on public property, and the public property must be bordering a residential property. Public property is typically defined as the green space between the sidewalk and the curb. Residents can call the Parks and Recreation office to set up a free inspection. If no problems are uncovered during the inspection, the Parks and Recreation Department will then forward an application to fill out requesting the type of tree to be planted. To request a tree-planting inspection, contact Skyler Beck at sbeck@councilbluffs-ia.gov. or (712) 328-4650.

FPNA Year in Review

Continued From Pg. 3

award one of our Person-of-the-Year plaques to Nate for his invaluable contributions to the founding and ongoing maintenance of our NA.

Since we are responsible for running our own organization and can do just about whatever we want, within the law, we decided that Kyle also deserved a Person-of-the-Year plaque for his tireless work for FPNA. This plaque was given to him at the January annual meeting.

Many people from FPNA need to be mentioned: Nate Watson was named to the newly established Mayor's Cabinet; Margaret LaBounty was presented with an Impact on the Arts Award from the Bluffs Arts Council; Dan McGinn and his fellow attorneys serenaded the neighborhood with Christmas carols; Tracy Dreessen resigned as Newsletter Editor and was replaced by Terri Dowell; three infant girls and one infant boy were welcomed to the neighborhood, but Jimmy Bolton and Xander Query passed away.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS TRIP DOWN
MEMORY LANE

Facts about January

By Tracy Dreessen

164 Park Avenue

Most of the world uses the Georgian calendar, which has January as the first month of the year. It is named for Janus, a Roman god.

Roman legend has it that the ruler Numa Pompilius added January and February to the end of the 10-month Roman calendar in about 700 B.C. Pompilius gave the month 30 days. Romans later made January the first month. In 46 B.C., the Roman statesman Julius Caesar added a day to January, making it 31 days long.

The Anglo-Saxons called the first month Wolfmonth because wolves came into the villages in winter in search of food.

In the northern half of the world, January is the coldest month. Nature is quiet and the birds travel less. The woodchucks and bears sleep day and night, in hibernation. The plants are resting, waiting for the warmer temperatures of the Spring.

In the southern half of the world, January is the warmest month. Animals are very active, and plants are growing.

Information taken from World Book Millennium 2000

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 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
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Sharon Babbitt	President
Kyle Muschall	Vice President/ Publisher
Tracy Dreessen	Secretary
John Huggins	Treasurer
Terri Dowell	Editor
Maxine Gotto	Special Representative

Sharon Babbitt	Board Member (2012)
Kyle Muschall	Board Member (2013)
Tracy Dreessen	Board Member (2012)
Nate Watson	Board Member (2013)
John Huggins	Board Member (2012)
Carol Mattox	Board Member (2012)
Linda Ring	Board Member (2013)

**Have an Opinion?
Please Share!**

We welcome any submission from a member that constructively furthers a topic of current public interest. Of course, opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association or its membership. Any submission must be received by the first day of the month for inclusion.

COPIES PROVIDED BY THE



Yes! I want to be an active member of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association. Please find enclosed a check for annual dues in the amount of \$20.00 per household.

My Name and Spouse's/Significant Other's Name: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numer: _____ Email Address: _____

Remit to: John Huggins, Treasurer, 206 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503



Yes! I want to purchase a Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association banner.

Please find enclosed a check for the Banner fee of \$10.00

(Or additional amounts of _____ for additional banners totaling _____.)

You must be a paid member to purchase a banner

My Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numer: _____ Email Address: _____

Remit to: Sharon Babbitt, President, 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 or John Huggins, Treasurer, 206 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503