

The Park Bench

AEPNA Newsletter

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President's Letter

(Ground) Breaking News

What a great meeting in May! More than 50 people attended and everyone enjoyed the food, the company and our presenters. Eileen Slane announced that groundbreaking for the Schroder/Vogel Park renovation is on schedule. The markers are staked and the orange fencing is up around the work area. The playground equipment that's currently in the park will be donated to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church on 56th & Leavenworth. Keep an eye on the progress of deconstruction and reconstruction. We'll celebrate the completion of the renovation this fall.

Trina Westman announced that the grant for an Aksarben Historical Reconnaissance Survey was approved. She brought bound copies of the survey for Elmwood Park (and other areas) and they raised lots of interest. Trina gave us an electronic copy which is posted on our Facebook page. Check it out; your home may be pictured in it! After the meeting, several neighbors lingered to share interesting stories of their homes. We'll be publishing some of those stories here in the next few months.

The Clean Solutions for Omaha (CSO) presentation was also excellent. Thanks to Ann Pedersen, Jim Tyler, and members of the project team who presented. All of the speakers were prepared to show how they are being good stewards of our money on this very costly project. They balance the demands of citizens (taxpayers) against the demands of the Clean Water Act. By partnering with the Parks Department to use existing park land (just look at Elmwood along 60th Street), they saved \$30 million. The benefits of sanitary sewer separation aren't some remote, future possibility. Every time more than just a little rain falls, the system overflows and dumps untreated sewage into our waterways – right here in our back yard along the Papio Creek.

Chris Hunke, owner of Cars R Us on 50th & William Streets, spoke briefly to let us know that he plans to apply for Tax Increment Financing to build multi-family dwellings on the lot by his business. He is still navigating the application process, but he and his wife Mindy are highly invested in the neighborhood; they live and work here and envision the buildings as a way to support them in retirement. He'll keep us updated.

Due to limited resources, we decided to not host the garden walk fundraiser this year. Thanks to those who volunteered to host or help. We'll ask you again next year. In the meantime, just get out and walk the neighborhood and enjoy everyone else's yard and garden!

I'll see you around the neighborhood!
Avery Schwer

Next Meeting
Thursday, July 17
6:30 – 8:30 PM
St. Matthew's





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(Green) Thumbs Up on the Park Cleanup

Enthusiastic volunteers turned out for the Schroder/Vogel Park cleanup days in May. They did an amazing job of clearing dead branches and leaves and planting flowers in the circle, around the sign and under the fence line – just in time for the lovely orange fencing to be put up for the renovation.

Among the many helping hands were: Scott Swanson, Eileen and Tom Slane, Jesi DeWitt, Terri Barna, Nikki Pitzl, Rob Kliever, Tom Prohaska, Lois Ourada, Keith Fisher, Erin Sobansky, Julie Dierberger and Renee McArthur. Renee's niece, Gracia, and nephew, Max also helped; they showed what fun families can have when volunteering together.

Jesi, Erin and Nikki won the drawings for the Tracks Lounge chicken dinner. Thanks, Nikki, for helping prepare and plant the circle garden.

We've gotten Facebook and face to face compliments on the park and the doggie stations. A special thanks to those angels who pick up after other people's dogs and help keep the park nice for everyone!



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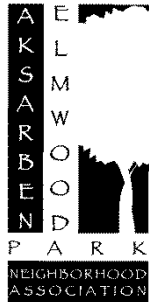
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Thanks!

Community support comes in all kinds of packages. Anne Konen of Tracks donated gift certificates for a chicken dinner to feed three lucky park cleanup volunteers. Be sure to stop in and thank her for her tasty support of AEPNA!

Post your photos and stories on AEPNA's Facebook page or send them to us at AEPNA1@gmail.com

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