



Packard Area Planning Alliance **Business Meeting Agenda**

August 4, 2022 | 7:00 pm
Wunderkammer- 3402 Fairfield Ave

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

Introductions- Introductions were made

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Kevin Hunter- candidate for Sheriff

Kevin Hunter is currently a Captain with over 33 years experience with FWPD. He currently serves in Vice Narcotics and admin. Mr. Hunter relayed his experiences and statistics relating to drug overdoses and the serious issue that this is for our community. He describes himself as the most qualified candidate ever possessing a Masters in Organizational Leadership, a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice as well as additional certifications/training with the FBI academy and negotiation. Mr. Hunter is a proponent of the jail chemical addiction program (JCAP) which creates a treatment program within the jail. Mr. Hunter also wants to champion a re-entry program to provide services to inmates upon their exit from the jail to re-enter society. Mr. Hunter believes additional work needs to be done to understand the true needs for our Allen County Jail- a comprehensive study is needed. He would create a non-partisan commission to further study this before agreeing that a \$300MM dollar jail is needed. Mr Hunter believes in collaborating with other agencies, especially in regards to drug addiction and mental health. Community policing is a strategy that Mr. Hunter supports and would seek to implement in neighborhoods in the county. Integrity is important to Mr. Hunter. He reminds us that a democratic sheriff has not been in office since 1936 and Mr. Hunter believes it is time for a change.

Questions from the group for Mr. Hunter:

How would you have handled the demonstrations in Fort Wayne last summer: communication is paramount for crowd understanding that it is time to leave an area. This may have resolved issues with some protesters not knowing that they could not be there. Deployment of tear gas would be a last resort.

Community Policing- what are the steps taken to prevent corruption: I would hold our officers accountable and not sweep anything under the rug and make sure it is clear that our officers know this is not acceptable.

How many beds are in existing jail: 732 beds. A comprehensive study has not been done to validate the 1500 beds being sought in a new facility.

Is there a financial benefit for County housing prisoners: previously we held federal prisoners however that contract has been canceled. The daily cost is minimal for housing and food.

What is the Sheriff's role in the jail: they are responsible for the operation of the jail.

Pastors in jail: visitation is limited due to Covid, staffing, etc.

In conclusion, Mr. Hunter is tough on crime but we need to look at additional programs to reduce recidivism and help reduce jail costs and population. The election is Nov 8 should you choose to support Kevin Hunter for Allen County Sheriff

Help not Handcuffs- Tony Borton

Tony Borton is a resident of WWPB but joined us tonight representing a grass roots coalition called Help not Handcuffs. The group is interested in making our city and county a better place and believe a new jail is not the way to do this. The current situation is caused by overcrowding and staffing shortages. The issues have been present for years and the Commissioners have now just been forced to deal with the issue due to a federal lawsuit. Mr. Borton talked about the current state of our jail population and some practices that the Commissioners and Sheriff have put in place to reduce population over the last few months without any new construction. An alternative to building a new jail exists- we also have the option to renovate/add on to the existing jail with an estimated price tag of \$25MM. Help not Handcuffs also wants to see a change in the United States trend to have a high prison population period. Mr. Borton shared that the current feasibility study utilized by our Commissioners only looked at adding onto current jail or building a new jail. It did not look at the criminal justice system in our community as a whole to evaluate what changes actually need to take place. Mr. Borton related that the group plans to hold a press conference August 10th at noon at Citizens Square. Follow along on their Facebook page for more information.

Joey Sarver- Teen Challenge

Joey Sarver joined us to share information about the status of this building and the Teen Challenge Program. The Organization started in 1958 with centers across the world. They currently have a building in our community at the corner of Rudisill and S. Wayne and are fundraising to continue renovations on the building. A former meth and heroin addict Mr. Sarver shared his personal experience with drug addiction, jail, soberness, and lack of treatment programs in the jails. Adult and Teen Challenge helped him 7 years ago and created a reentry strategy for him. He shared how the program works. They are excited to be in the community and be able to help our community develop a strategy to help those in the (voluntary) program. Mr. Sarver and his family will be living on site. A staff member is on site 24 hrs a day. More info on the group can be found at teenchallengeusa.org

BUSINESS MEETING

Agenda Approval- passed

Secretary's Report & Minutes Approval: Secretary Report of June social meeting was accepted with no changes or additions.

Treasurer's Report: \$2653.41 current balance. We had one expenditure of \$537.54 paid to Wunderkammer for a grant we had previously voted to support.

Committee Reports

- **Historic Preservation** [Steve McCord, Erika Stuller]- Steve advised he is talking to Connie Haas Zuber/ARCH about a grant to produce video content for homeowners of historic properties and the issues they face. ARCH would like data on the demographics of PAPA community to help with their mission. Steve asked for suggestions for video content. Please email to him if you have any ideas. During the meeting, rebecca suggested a video to educate homeowners on requirements of local and historic districts. We also discussed the changes within the HPC with the retirement of Don Orban. Terri relayed that a group of neighborhood presidents have requested a meeting with City officials to discuss and ensure that we don't lose any ground in our endeavors to preserve the historic attributes of our City.
- **Marketing & Communications** [Sierah Barnhart] - Sierah shared that we are now sharing our PAPA meetings open to the public in hopes of attracting new members to our group.

Old Business

- **Packard Plan Updates-** The Steering committee has provided feedback on the Plan. The division heads are currently reviewing. After that it will be sent to the neighborhood presidents. Dan hopes to present it to our group in September.
- **Vice President-** nominations
 - Ben Ruhl of Oakdale was nominated to the position by Lyndsay Perez. We will hold an official vote at our September meeting. Ben will serve as interim VP until that time.
- **Wunderkammer Grant opportunity for Incremental Development-** The grant was awarded to Start Fort Wayne, Creighton Home and South Wayne neighborhoods in the amount of \$50,000. YAY! Lots of details are up in the air and more info will be coming soon!

New Business

- **Future PAPA meeting topics**
 - Broad topics were discussed at our June social meetings. We are looking for specific issues for specific departments, any feedback from the group?
 - ALLin Allen- who can explain that? contact Sherese Fortreide
 - How are some of the City/county organized...Ellen Cutter??

- Neighborhood Code- how reporting and accountability works. Chris Blaughvell
- City officials...but they can also be found at SWAP

Good of the Order

A pro bono lawyer will be discussing neighborhood related topics with Harrison Hill on Sept 1. Contact Cornelia Schulz if you are interested in attending.

Billy's Dugout for sale

CoFW has been working with Sherwood to Petit to activate that neighborhood.

WK cleanup Aug 13 also Zero Landfill Day, Sept 10, Oct 9

WK \$750 matching grants for neighborhood capacity building, google form to apply

Open Streets this sunday aug 7

Adjournment- the meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm

Attendees:

Sierah Barnhart

Rebecca Gremaux

Lyndsay Perez

Kevin Hunter- candidate for Allen County Sheriff

Terri Stumpf

Jim Sack

Tony Borton- Help not Handcuffs Coalition

Cornelia Schultz

Joey Sarder? Teen Challenge

Tom Tiernon

Dan Swartz

Charlie Fritz

Sean Valentine

Steve McCord

Ben Ruhl

Dan Baisden

