

Facilitator John Sexton

Attendees: TNT Southside Facilitators & Board Representatives: Angela Wright, Twiggy Billue, Julius Lawrence, Regina McArthur, Camille Coakley. Councilmember Sue Boyle. City Court Judge Derrek Thomas, Dorris Harvey, Kim Morrell, Patti Maxwell, Robert Steingraber, Sue Wood, Mike Mezgar, Sgt. Teri Lore, Caroline West, Janis Schaub, Vicki Hammer, Charles Pierce-El, Logan Reidsure, Jen Higgins, Kim Russel, Raquan Robinson, Chol Majok, Lou Carol Franklin, Palmer Harvey, Ashley Kang, Elizabeth Morey, Doug Martin, Tae Cerutti, Al Freeman, Maria Hudson, Liam Kirst, Jake Thorsen, Dana Mckinney, Jerome Griffin, Walter Eiland, Geneva Hayden, Jaime Howley, Angel Thompson, Tierra Franklin, Jed Boyle, Patrona Jones-Rowser

Review of the Ground Rules: John Sexton went over the sample ground rules for the meeting. Mr. Sexton stated that at the next meeting, there would be time devoted to develop the groups own rules.

Review of the January 9th 2017 Minutes: Charles Pierce-El corrected the spelling of his name. Betty Morey made the motion to accept the minutes, Jaime Howley 2nd. All were in favor.

Issues for City Department Officials

- 1) Sgt. Lore reported that 300 tires illegally dumped on Leon by Dr. King, were removed. There is an ongoing investigation.
- 2) On the 300 Block of Kennedy, the contractors left a few sidewalks incomplete
- 3) 418 Craddock had house fire, currently has orange snow fence around it. Will it be torn down soon?
- 4) Neighborhood had tires and rims stolen on Bellevue and Craddock
- 5) Bike Lane along Onondaga Creek Walk (Brighton & Newell) had large planters blocking cars, they have been moved and now there is vehicular traffic going through.

Q. How are the cameras working?

A. Sgt. Lore stated that 6-7 cops have been hired to watch them.

Q. Are they able to maneuver the cameras?

A. Yes

Q. Does the Landbank try to negotiate with people to pay their taxes before taking their homes?

A. The City is the foreclosing entity that transfers the property to the Landbank. The City has a team that will contact the homeowner in several ways to try and help them before the home goes into foreclosure. Councilmember Sue Boyle stated that the last round of houses that came to the council were not owner occupied, however the round does have several owner occupied properties. Ms. Boyle stated that the Council receives data on the number of correspondences with the homeowner for about a one year time period. This includes sending a letter and having someone go door to door to speak with homeowners. The City works towards setting up a tax trust with the homeowner so that they will not lose their home. The Council does not want to take homeowner's homes and sometimes find difficult circumstances in which the taxes exceed the value of the property. Councilmember Boyle has been working on ways to relieve some of the penalties so that people can get caught up on their taxes. A resident stated that there is the perception out there that the Landbank is the big bad wolf. People have to go to an agency rather than knowing the community.

It was stated that it is our responsibility to share this knowledge with our neighbors.

Pixels and Print Workshop:

Camille Coakley informed the group that students from Syracuse University will be having an intense design workshop with international design professionals from the 9th to the 11th to develop the Southside website and branding material. They will be working on a logo, motion graphics, website with resources, print campaign, social media, virtual reality. The students will reveal their work to the community on Saturday, February 11th from 7-8pm at 215 University Place.

Task Force Updates

Public Outreach Task Force: Dana McKinney

- Ms. McKinney stated the task force had decided on three slogans to choose from for the Southside. 'Soul of Syracuse', 'Spirit of Syracuse', Salt City Soul'. The group voted on 'Soul of Syracuse' and 'Salt City Soul'. 'Soul of Syracuse' received 17 votes while 'Salt City Soul' received only 6 votes. This slogan will be placed on future gateway signage. Ms. McKinney informed the group of the colors that were chosen for the website and branding material which is Gold and Orange.

Beautification Task Force: Patrona Jones-Rowser

- Ms. Jones-Rowser informed the group of an artist, Jameson Steel, can produce wood plaques for homeowners to purchase to place on their homes. The circular designs, available from 18" 20" or 24" would provide the neighborhood with a cohesive design marker such as they have in Strathmore.
- On Friday, February 10th, SUNY ESF will have a proposal for the Rhama Garden's design charrette. Camille Coakley stated that she will send an email with the dates.
- Camille Coakley stated that on January 18th at Beachem Library at 2pm there will be a community input meeting in regards to the mural design. Camille suggested that the murals contain historical figures such as Aunt Jemima who is buried in Oakwood Cemetery. The Colvin bridge may not be feasible as the City stated they would charge \$20,000 to hire a flagger while the project is being completed. Also, Renwick bridge will be coming down during the I-81 project which will leave opportunity for a new location.
- The Landbank is working with city schools to paint murals on the boards it places on the vacant houses.
- Home Headquarters has selected the Southside for its next Block Blitz. The Block Blitz is where one block receives exterior improvements. Home Headquarters will be at the meeting in March to present a list of eligible streets.
- OCC Mike Metzger stated he will have students participate in a Neighborhood Cleanup around the new grocery store, Price Rite, soft opening April 9th, hard opening on April 23rd.

Neighborhood Management/Housing Task Force: Jaime Howley

- Ms. Howley stated that the task force is working on developing a list of resources located in the Southside for a pamphlet to provide residents. The pamphlet would include resources for housing, renters and owners, grants and loans, elderly and disabled, HEAP and weatherization. Section 8, information on code violations, fair housing info and legal resources will also be listed.
- Jake Thorsen from the Landbank suggested a high school teacher from Fowler assist the Southside in developing a GIS asset map.
- 8 people attended the workshop with the City Code Department and the Neighborhood & Business Development office for training session on How to Report Code Violations Online.
- The Task force met with Kate Auwater in the City Planning Department in regards to historic sites on the Southside. An idea was discussed to place blue and white street signs on the streets like the streets named in memory of historic figures. A survey is needed to establish the Historic Neighborhood. The city will produce and install the signage.

- The Landbank reported to the Task Force that there will be a meeting at Grant and Devon to develop a place space on a vacant lot.
- Ms. Howley proposed a community building activity to commemorate Juneteenth with luminaries across the Southside. "Lighting the Path to Freedom".

Voting Task Force: Angela Wright

- Ms. Wright stated that the slogan for the task force will be 'Your Voice, Your Vote'. She also stated that it is important that the 6 Neighborhoods on the Southside organize as a community as we all have the same concerns: lack of jobs, safety for children. The Voting task force will focus on 3 areas
- 1) Collective vote
 - 2) Education: know the officials you are voting for and know the issues. Who is elected effects the quality of life in your neighborhood.
 - 3) Getting young people involved

Voter Task Force Meeting on Thursday February 23rd at 5:30pm at 1721 South Salina St.

It was sated that both the School Board and Common Council seats will be up this year.

Economic Development Task Force: Regina McArthur

- Ms. McArthur stated that the Economic Development task force will be working hand in hand with the Voting Task force

Special Projects

- 1) John Sexton proposed 2 pairs of bike racks. Funding requested \$700
- 2) Jaime Howley proposed the purchase of T-shirts with the new Southside Logo. The shirts would be worn by neighborhood watch groups, volunteers on task forces or sold for profit. The profit from the sales would go back into purchasing additional t-shirts. Funding requested \$500
- 3) Geneva Hayden requested funding in the amount of \$1,500 for her Light a Candle for Literacy after school Program. Angel Thompson, a former participant of the program, shared her successes from partaking in the initiative.
- 4) Patrona Jones-Rowser requested funding in the amount of \$650 for the purchase of perennial flowers for the Rhama Garden on the corner of South Salina and Newell. The city will provide some flowers from the greenhouse. The purpose of the Rhama Garden, initiated by the Alchemical Nursery, is that all the plants are edible. (vegetables, flowers, herbs)
- 5) Camille Coakley requested funding in the amount of \$2,500 for an entrance sign at Billings Park.

All five projects total \$5,850. Since the Special Project funds for the sector are only \$5,000 John Sexton asked that his proposal not be funded. Julius made the motion, Walter 2nd, all were in favor to not fund the bike racks. Angela Wright offered to provide \$150 if all remaining projects were approved. Jaime Howley made the motion, Robert Steingraber 2nd and all were in favor to fund the 4 remaining projects.

City-Wide Update

Caroline West, *TNT Board Chair*, stated that the City has offered to change the contract with City and Home Headquarters. TNT is now a 501c3 and the board has authorized a checking account to be opened as TNT. TNT will continue its relationship with Home Headquarters.

Q. Now that TNT is a 501c3, does that allow us to write for grants?

A. TNT had to register as a charity. The form was filed in November and we anticipate getting a response soon.

Announcements

- 1) Camille Coakley acknowledged the Principle of Danforth, Gene Jones as well as Jennifer Higgins and Kim with Home Leasing (St. Anthony's development) for attending the meeting
- 2) Most Holy Rosery (1031 Bellevue Ave) will have a Father/Daughter dance (can be father figure) on Friday, February 10th at 6:30pm
- 3) Julius Lawrence thanked everyone for participating in the Southside TNT
- 4) Palmer Harvey brought to everyone's attention the Source of Income Law. Councilmember Sue Boyle stated that the City Council recently passed a law that it is illegal to discriminate against source of income for rental properties. Everyone must have an opportunity before denied.
- 5) The Greater Love in Christ Church is in need of board members and volunteers
- 6) Twiggy Billue announced that Jubilee Homes and Price Rite will have a pre-onboarding job fair informational session Wednesday, February 8th from 6pm – 7:30pm at the Southwest Community Center.