

MINUTES: *Facilitator* Carl Sharak

Attendees: Jeff Wright, Marilyn Madison, Harold Johnson, Ethel Johnson, George Matthews, Carl Sharak, Pat Hagemann, Rita Broton, Dee Klees, Leah Davin, Caroline West, Joseph A. Romano and son, Judge Derrek Thomas, Pearl Fischer, Ben Walsh, Charles Jackson, Capt. L. DelFavero, Jane Whitney, Joan Hanlin

Review of the March 8th 2017 Minutes: Dee Klee made the motion to accept the minutes, Marilyn Madison 2nd, all were in favor

Issues for City Department Officials

- 1) 3/27 between 3:20pm and 8:50pm on the 200 block of Seneca Drive, suspect kicked in the front door and stole a TV & Xbox
- 2) 3/30 between 8am and 5pm 3700 block of Midland, suspect stole a red colored wooden box containing \$450 and some coins. Faith Heritage has cameras nearby that will be reviewed
- 3) 4/1 between 10am and 5pm, broken 2nd story window. Xbox, designer clothes and ipad air stolen
- 4) 3/26 on the 100 block of Roney Rd, victim assaulted, sustained a fractured jaw and arrest was made
Q. At the Valley Vista meeting it came up the issue of Clary kids throwing rocks, any updates?
A. An arrest was made last month, Officer Evans and Officer Corcoran have been working on this issue. The kids are wearing Corcoran colors and it is difficult to identify them.

City Issues:

- 1) Dekatherm contractor did gas work at Seneca Turnpike between Monticello and Seneca Drive. They poured gravel and tar on people's yards. National Grid hired Dekatherm to do the work and has offered to correct the issue after the city has finished their work at the location. It is unclear how much more work the city will be doing.
- 2) National Grid put in a new pole near Bob Cecil Center. It appears the sidewalk is now broken from the possible weight of their equipment.
- 3) Jeff Romano stated that National Grid is good at taking care of issues once it is placed on their work list. The Valley Men's Club men's club will have a few upgrades for ADA accessibility.

Committee Reports:**Beautification Committee:**

There is concern over the 'Welcome to the Valley' sign on Walrath and Salina St., there needs to be a barrier so pedestrians do not use it as a cut through. The bench in front of the Valley Vista needs to be relocated.

Planning Committee:

The Family Dollar on Ballantyne and Salina was going to have greenery along Ballantyne, however, they will need 3' wide space for snow storage and 5' wide space for the sidewalk. Probably won't get the greenery that was hoped for. Brighton Mews appears to be underway. The developer agreed to move the driveway, add a bench, and retain runoff water on site.

Special Project Updates:

Carl Sharak informed the group that all 3 Special Projects have been ordered: speed reader, trash can and MAPA banners. George Mathews announced that the MAPA banners are going up this weekend.

Q. Is the speed reader mobile? **A.** It is pole mounted, and could be moved to another location

Presentations: Charles Jackson, Coordinator for YSAP

YSAP (Youth Substance Abuse Prevention) is a 5 year grant funded by the White House. It is a bottom up community based model, the goal is for the community to keep it going. YSAP is here to help plan and mitigate the issues you see in your community, as you know your community the best. This works through networks, YSAP provides workshops, training, assistance with Town hall meetings, support coalitions, support via family navigator, and partnerships with city and county agencies.

Q. Will the 5 year grant be affected by the Trump administration?

A. YSAP is currently in the middle of year 2. With all things going around this country in terms of opioid use, this program has been stable and growing. It probably won't be affected. Congress is very friendly towards this initiative. It is designed not to have a lot of money. It is about community resources and should eventually function without YSAP.

Q. If someone was aware that something was going on, what would you do?

A. Many teens think Marijuana is not harmful, there could be more education campaigns on how harmful it is but the campaigns might not reach the teens in an effective way. Based on the presentation example, Idris's network could help reach the kids at their platform. Some use Twitter or Facebook to communicate with each other.

Q. Alcohol is legal, most kids are introduced to it in social settings. Marijuana will soon be just as legal as alcohol.

A. There is a perception amongst young people culture. The average teen spends almost 13 hrs a week watching Youtube, mostly rap videos that are steeped in marijuana culture. Most teens think the vast majority of their peers smoke marijuana. Statistics show that only 17% have tried it. There is a strategy called 'norming'. Focus on the 83% who have not tried it, teens will think they are the normal ones. Drug use in Colorado is going down; a state where marijuana is legalized. City Court Judge Derrek Thomas sees a lot of charges related to this in the city court system. If you look at a person's social background, most use marijuana and drink from a young age. There is a direct correlation between people in and out of prison with substance abuse and early childhood trauma.

Q. Is there any data related to gang activity?

A. Part of a survey between city and county has found a major concern amongst youth with violence and gangs. If anyone is interested, YSAP is looking for people to join subcommittees.

Seneca Turnpike Updates: Russ Houck, city engineer stated the previous month that the benches would be saved with the possibility of one more being added. There is a resident who uses a power wheel chair in front of the Valley Vista who is experiencing issues with the road rolling from the weight of traffic- Mr. Houck said this other spot issues would be corrected. There is no money in the budget to fix the overall underlayment issues; question came up as to why a power wheelchair was being used in the road. The paint on the road will not disappear within 3 months, as they are using epoxy paint.

TNT City-Wide Updates:

Caroline West updated the group on the TNT City-wide Strategic Planning that took place on Thursday March 30th, there were around 60 people in attendance. Marilyn Madison commented that it was nice to see so many young people in their 20's and 30's who were asking good questions and bringing ideas to the table. There will be two more meetings on Thursday April 27th and Thursday June 1st from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. It was announced that the meetings will take place at the N. Salina st, within the same building as the Gifford Foundation. Please RSVP so that enough food is ordered for everyone by emailing TNTStrategicplanning@gmail.com. Caroline West also stated that there was a TNT timeline at the meeting and encouraged everyone to write a memory on it.

Announcements

- 1) George Matthews stated that MAPA meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm at the Cecil Center. There will be review of Anti-litter posters submitted by kids from 3 schools. MAPA will have 4 cleanups this summer, the first one will be on Earth day, April 22nd starting at the Cecile Center 9am.
- 2) FOCUS Greater Syracuse, Friday April 21st at 7:30am there will be an event with CNY works to address youth employment issues. A lot of city youth jobs require some training such as lifeguards or student musicians.
- 3) Caroline West reminded the group that the Webster Pond Fishing program has started. Kids can fish on Saturdays without a license from 8am – 12, suggested donation of \$10. Adults, 16 and up, can fish on Sundays from 8am – 12, they will need a fishing license and suggested donation of \$15.
- 4) Webster Pond Neighborhood Watch meeting, Thursday April 13th at the United Methodist Church.
- 5) April 23rd Pancake breakfast at the American Legion. Fundraiser for the Friends of Wildlife at Webster Pond to replace the porta potty with a functional bathroom. Tickets are \$9 for all you can eat!

Caroline West motioned to adjourn, Pat Hagemann 2nd.