

**Facilitator** Frank Cetera

**Attendees:** Gladys Smith, Mike Behnke, Jaime McKinney, Michelle Sizparsi, Logan Riedsma, Andrea Turnbull, Rick Destito, Triana Reese, Kim Harvey, Felicia Salley, Deborah Hundley, Cassie Hammond, Robb Bucklin, Paul Ciavarri, Hilary Donahue, Owen Kerney, Leah Russell, Rose Rodriguez, Caroline West, Jake Thorsen, Daniel Kolinski, Edward Ott, Chol Majok, Tina Zagyva

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Minutes:** Rob Bucklin motioned to accept the minutes, Mike Behnke 2<sup>nd</sup>, all were in favor

## TNT City-wide Board Elections

Rick Destito for delegate & Frank Cetera for alternate. All were in favor.

Rick Destito introduced himself to the group, was a facilitator for a long time and has a business in the area and wants to make Syracuse an awesome place to live. Involved in arts and music. He also helped with the most recent 5 year plan. Frank has been involved in TNT, has a community garden on Gifford st., works on Westside coalition and adopt a trash can project.

The Delegate and alternate will bring back information form the TNT city-wide board and vice versa.

**Issues for City Department Officials/SPD:** Frank reviewed issues from last meeting, CPTED was explained. Increase request for policing on Merriman and Macena st.

- 1) Off Otisco around Schoeneck Court increased drug activity, could police go around more often, maybe do a walk through. Drug dealers will come and Police will come, they go away and then things settle and they come back. Camera facing the opposite direction, a housing authority camera. Police are aware of the different dealers.
- 2) Has there been talk about the Father's Day shooting anniversary? -The police acted a little more aggressively than necessary, people need to be treated with respect. A girl was being repeatedly punched in the face, there are issues with trust with the police, police need to make an effort to build a relationship with the kids. Police did patrol during kid's softball games. Both sides could have done things a little differently.
- 3) People are saying that drugs are being dealt continuously in our neighborhood, Police are saying they know and are doing investigations but they are doing nothing to stop the current activity.
- 4) Resident had interactions with Police where her friend's son ran away, she listened to officers berate her friend because she is in a relationship where her man is black and she is white. People who are younger are treated like crap. Police are rude, crude and have been stopped by Police asking her where's the weed and if she had condoms in her purse. Relationship between community and police is strained.
- 5) There was a fight where someone came to a resident house and started a fight, no blood no shots fired the police said they couldn't help a resident. People don't want to call police if they are not going to help.
- 6) Community Police Dialogue circles happening around the city, they are open to hear what you have to say. Might be through interfaith works. They recruit people before hand to participate.

Frank Cetera stated that we can create a Police Relations Task Force, start talking in more detail about what we can do with this issue. Q. Will Westside TNT be prepared to back up residents so that there is no retaliation?

Q. Any more progress on trash cans? A. There will be a few on Geddes, not where there are businesses, mostly near the schools.

## TNT City-wide Delegate Update:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> city-wide strategic planning meeting will be on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Central Tech. 5pm dinner, 5:30 meeting starts.

It has been noticed that there are not a lot of Latino speakers, Leah Russel will be working with Rose to recruit more representation in the future.

## Presentation: Owen Kerney & Nora Spillane

Contact Info: Owen Kerney: [Okerney@syr.gov.net](mailto:Okerney@syr.gov) 448-8110

Focusing on S. Geddes St. (from Fayette) to the intersection of Grand, the business corridor. How do we improve its potential? The new zoning land use law will effect Geddes St. specifically by reflecting the community character allowing mixed uses with design standards.

Q. If you change the zoning, do the current owners of building have to change?

A. All new development and investment must comply right away. Any changes to existing owner will have to comply but it is no retroactive. Nora stated that It could be easier to make a change to your business than under the current regulations. Nora's team can help with financing, connecting with other departments, etc.

Q. Would you be able to help us with the sidewalks under the railroad bridge on Geddes and Erie?

A. NBD did apply to the state for streetscape improvements, did not get the grant. Could have further dialogue with DPW, railroad to figure out what can be done.

Q. Do you have Spanish speakers to reach out to the businesses in the area?

A. Nora stated they have human resources to do so.

Q. Can we get some benches on the sidewalk in front of the new stadium at Fowler? (Joint Schools Construction Plan)

A. Owen can check into the status with DPW.

Comment: Peacemakers have a bunch of blue and green benches, they will be tagged with 'Take Back the Streets' Campaign that will be placed around the neighborhood. A request was made for one to be placed in West Onondaga on the 300- 400 block?

**Geddes Street Task Force:** Frank Cetera motioned to approve the task force, Rick Destito 2<sup>nd</sup>, all were in favor.

**Skunk City-Harbor Brooke Task Force:** Mike Behnke motioned to approve the task force, Gladys Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

**Neighborhood Updates:** Park Ave, Near West Side, Tipp Hill, Far West Side, Skunk City-Harbor Brooke (we need more representation from the different neighborhoods)

**Update on Special Projects:** Special Project proposal regarding West side block party was tabled, as the event takes place on August 17<sup>th</sup>, after the end of our fiscal year.

## Announcements

1) Jake Thorsen with the Landbank. Council defunded the Landbank 1.5 million. Mayor vetoed, Council will vote soon. A large portion of the funding would go to demos, large percentage on the Westside. There is a petition on the Landbank Facebook and Twitter site.

Q. Who's phone can you call to complain?

A. Chad Ryan, district common council.

Q. will that impact the new pocket park planning?

A. No it won't.

Frank Cetera made motion as TNT sector to make a statement in support of the Landbank. Leah Russel 2<sup>nd</sup>, all were in favor.

Porches collapsing, peeling paint: anonymous calls can be made to the city line. The more information the city has the better it can know of a problem. There is a rental registry ordinance, every rental is required to register unless owner lives in the house. It is illegal to rent houses with collapsing porch, codes only does exterior inspections. Your landlord should prove they are a part of this registry, the City cannot come into a house to inspect possible code violations unless they are invited in. 448-8743

2) WOSA had earth day last month, 136 volunteers.

3) Frank Cetera has a community garden, every Saturday at 610 Gifford street

4) Mike Behnke has been talking with County executive, burnet park, interested in an aviary, open to doing something on the county property and also interested in doing crosswalks and getting the tunnel painted.