

Facilitator Mary Alice Smothers

Attendees: Michael Behnke, Richard Destito, Frank Cetera, Robert Oberst, Dawn Daggett, Gladys Smith, Edward Ott, Andrea Turnbull, P. Ceccerelli, Jackie Elliot, Jimmy Monto, Rich Puchalski, Joe Nicoletti, Logan Reidsma, Leah Russell, Kim Harvey

May 16th Minutes: Mike Behnke motioned to accept the minutes, Jackie Elliot 2nd, all were in favor

TNT City-wide Board Delegate Update

Frank Cetera reported that at the last City-wide board meeting, the new officers were elected starting July 1st. Pat Body is Chair, Mary Carney is Cice Chair, Frank Cetera is Treasurer, Caroline West is Secretary. The 3rd Strategic Planning meeting was held on June 1st, action steps are currently in development. The committee is open to anyone who would like to be a part of it, contact Frank. There will be one more survey that goes out to the TNT list serve. Richard Destito is the new Delegate for Westside, Frank Cetera is Westside Alternate.

Neighborhood Updates: Near Westside: Thursday morning is the Joint School Construction Board meeting, 9am 2nd floor of SyraStat conference room at City Hall there will be a discussion on the future of Blodgett Westside Academy. Mary Alice met with the State, there were very few they could call on in the community. TNT needs to step up and get involved in this neighborhood. Two options: close the school or take a much lower cost for renovation.

Q. Has Joe Nicoletti heard whether the administration has discussed closing Blodgett?

A. Hon. Nicoletti: The administration reconfigured the board of Ed members and councilors were taken off the Joint School Construction Board. I can speak for myself, we need that school. Whenever you remove a neighborhood school, it is the beginning of the end of a neighborhood. My opinion is that we should get together to figure out a way to either build a new school in the same location or fund the renovations.

Q. How much communication from the Board is trickling down to the community and what is the consistency in the schools when they change principles every year?

Mary Alice stated that the new school that is coming in, it's a big problem because they are saying its agriculture. The kids on the Northside said this is not what they want.

Q. Where is the agricultural school coming from?

A. Steve Cumotti's daughter had worked on, it is a Charter school and it can be anything they want it to be once it has been approved by the State. It is not just agriculture, its natural resources and agricultural sciences.

610 Gifford Street Community Garden meets every Saturday at 11am. Skiddy Park Cameras have been installed (7 altogether). The Field House had a PR opening but is not actually functioning as the technology isn't hooked up yet; could be a few more weeks. This was supposed to be for the community to use, as the Near West Side Initiative and Lerner's Center purchased furniture for the Center. The Police have agreed to allow a few community leaders to utilize the building however they must be let in by an officer. A key will not be given to the community; this is a Parks Department decision.

Update on Special Projects: A lively conversation ensued in regards to the special project funding timeline. The June 30th deadline on Special Projects was a stipulation put onto TNT by the City's budget director, Mary Vossler. Mary Alice has submitted a proposal for the Near West Side Block Party. All were in favor of funding the \$500 for the block party at Skiddy Park, August 17th.

Mary Alice updated the group: 35 kids went bowling: shoes, fed, \$75 game card. The second project, lawn care items and flowers were purchased for Jacks pocket park. All are completed and receipts have been submitted.

Frank Cetera: The pollinators garden is underway, 64 different perennials have been purchased, have are in the ground, the other half next week. The signs have been ordered but not delivered yet. Working on trying to develop a collaborative effort with the Downtown farmer's market: buy \$10 credit and can it be matched by the DT farmers market for kids who volunteer at the 610 Gifford Garden to receive a \$20 gift card. If successful, this could be a model utilized at other Community Gardens. The OG's against Violence sign project raised an additional \$650 to add to \$750 from TNT, the order is going in this week. The signs will be distributed after they have been received. The mural project has been invoiced and partially paid. The painting materials are on order. This will happen after June 30th date.

- Q. What happened to the flower planter project on Geddes St?
- Q. Has the street on Shonnard been improved?
- Q. Has anyone heard if an ATV hit a pedestrian over the weekend? Is this just rumor?
- Q. Is there a way for people to slow down on S. Geddes St. there is a 20mph speed zone in front of the school?

Announcements

- June 27th Landbank 6pm will be having a Buyers Workshop. July 15th Landbank 10am to 1pm Painting Day at 2110 S. Salina St. The Pocket Park next to Mundy's Branch library general landscaping improvements, bench and trash can installment and should be starting to plant soon.
- Visioning Voices Series: Speaker, dinner, tour and workshop. TNT Northside, Southside and Eastwood have hosted this series; Westside was approached to focus on Gifford Street. The speaker invited has done work on crime prevention through environmental design.
- Work will begin in the few months on Performance Park. 125 seats, movable wall theater between WCNY and Literacy Building. (on Wyoming street)
- Building on the Corner of S. Geddes and Fayette will have a Ponchitos on the first floor and apartments on the second floor. Lipe Art Park will have new sculptures and trails soon
- Joint School Construction Board meeting, 9am 2nd floor of SyraStat conference room at City Hall there will be a discussion on the future of Blodgett Westside Academy.