

Facilitator: Twigg Billue

Attendees: John Sexton, Angela Wright, Julius Lawrence, Regina McArthur, Camille Coakley, Jim Cecile, Chris Montgomery, Kim Morrell, Madison Quinn, Teri Lore, Betty L. Pearson, Joanne Stevens, Tabitha Ngwashi, Jerome Griffin, Tracey Corriders-Howard, Doug Martin, Ben Walsh, Sue Boyle, Camille Bellamy, Edward Ott, Al Freeman, Caroline West, Jaime Howley, Patrona Jones-Rowser, Lori Covington, Capt. L. Delfavero, Chol Majok, Douglas Bullock, Mel Menan, Ossie Edwards, Aida Snyder, Crystal Fizer, Robert Steingraber, Michael Greene, Rev. Elizabeth Morey, Jeffrey Morey, Geneva Hayden, Charles Pierce-El, Tiffany Dixie, Sue Wood, Lou Carol Franklin, Anthony Davis, Kathy Davis, Palmer Harvey, Doris Harvey, Cheriss Pittman

Twigg Billue opened the meeting at 6:05 pm Introductions began promptly. Reviewed ground rules

Review of the May 1st 2017 Minutes: Lori Covington suggested two changes to the minutes: Education Task Force is discussing the abrupt termination of Principle Jones and a meeting with SCSO Superintendent Jaime Alicea was announced. Robert Motioned to accept the minutes with the changes, Al Freeman 2nd, all were in favor.

Issues for City Department Officials

- 1) Any updates on the tree thefts? There were 3 more stolen, Police were called. Captain Delfavero suggested that there might be confusion as to the tenants signing contract, this could be more of a civil issue. A resident stated that he spoke with Captain Shoff who informed him that there is one criminal tree theft under investigation.
- 2) There has been an illegal boarding house at 330 Hillview reported to Codes through the City-line web portal. When checking on the issue the following morning, the complaint has been closed and the issue still exists. Why are these complaints not properly being followed up on?
- 3) There are still Earth Day yard waste bags sitting on the side of the road, DPW has not picked them up. A resident explained that if the bags do not have the OCCRA tag on them, they were skipped after the April 22nd Earth Day clean up and are considered illegal dumping. They can be picked up with the quadrant pick up by DPW.

Save the Rain Projects: Madison Quinn, Department of Water Protection Coordinator

Approximately 123 million gallons of water are captured annually as a result of the Save the Rain initiatives. A list of upcoming green street projects can be found at savetherain.us/construction. Residents will receive a door hangar prior to the work beginning. If you would like to receive updates, sign up on the email list. You can contact Madison at MadisonQuinn@ongov.net

Q. How do you determine where a project needs to be done?

A. Court mandated, targeting areas based on engineers priority map. The focus is on areas that have a lot of paved surfaces. Save the Rain coordinates with DPW and Parks to work together on projects.

Q. Is the court mandate only for the Southside?

A. There are projects on the Southside, Eastside and Northside.

Q. How does this affect the flooding issue for seniors?

A. Save the Rain seeks to make flooding less impactful, but this is not related to the FEMA flood maps.

Q. Do you talk to kids in regards to literacy info?

A. There is a 3rd grade program at the Baltimore Woods Nature Center, Nature in the City program. Save the Rain will speak with other groups by request.

Q. Do you have job availability for the community?

A. Save the Rain only has 2 employees, however, there is a partnership with Onondaga Earth Corp. to hire youths and young adults for tree maintenance and planting.

Q. You stated that Save the Rain pave, just affected area or whole street?

A. Typically the entire street, but it is coordinated with the City.

Family Dollar: Aida Snyder, Store Manager

Ms. Snyder stated that there are trash cans placed outside the building, trash is picked up daily but there is a need for the community to help stop people from littering in the first place.

Q. How can the community help you with Corporate? A. Complain (store #11,722)

It was suggested that the Southside TNT write a letter to Corporate on official TNT letter head, a draft should be brought back to the group at the August meeting for review. It was also suggested that the pictures of the litter on the ground be included with the letter.

Syracuse City School District: Anthony Davis, School Superintendent

Communication regarding the Corcoran stabbing at the school could have been handled more efficiently. There will now be protocol when there is 1) something going on 2) the status of the building 3) if the building is in a safe situation or there is concern of a threat. These areas will have consistency in communication moving forward.

Q. How did students get weapons inside and will that change?

A. The school is making sure all equipment is working, and that the people at the machines are doing what they are supposed to do. There are certain areas that the schools are not allowed to check.

Q. During violence amongst the students, who is tasked with breaking up fights: teachers or police?

A. In high schools there are resource officers and administration, this is not an easy answer.

Q. Who protects the teachers?

A. The students are #1 to be protected. The adults took the responsibility to look over the students, it's not just about teaching anymore. If you just witness, that helps, don't put yourself in harms way.

Q. Is it possible to form a parent group to zero in on problems our children are having?

A. The school system is coming into the community to find partnerships.

Comment: Children that are in Catholic schools; parents are mandated to help out.

A. You have to be properly vetted to volunteer around children.

Q. Are there trauma teams to help kids in the aftermath? Why are there more officers than councilors?

A. For this situation in particular, there were a few additional councilors in the building a few days after the event. There needs to be better support. There are only 2 police officers in the high school. There is a combination of positions (6-8 people) that make up the support team.

Task Force Updates: All task forces are in need of volunteers

Communications/Special Events Task Force: Lou Carol Franklin

Murals for Taylor bridge will soon be under construction. Soul of Syracuse event has been rescheduled for summer 2018. September 9th Gala event for TNT Southside. Southside TNT participating in the Juneteenth event, looking for volunteers to work in 4 hr increments. Monday Mile Walk, Southside TNT is represented, feel free to join. T-shirts are on sale for \$20

Housing /Neighborhood Management Task Force: Jaime Howley

A group of four people met with Jessica Tiefke, a GIS teacher at Fowler High School. The teacher is working with her students to develop a resource map for the Southside and has offered to extend it city-wide with the possibility of an online interactive map. Belen Cordon, with Neighborhood Business Development office, is working with different groups throughout the city to collect data on vacant zombie properties through a smartphone and desktop application called 'Salt City Mapping'. This tool will assist the city in prioritizing how they spend funding to address problematic zombie properties. There will be a training for the App on July 8th at SSIC. Ms. Howley recommended that the Southside TNT invite Belen in the fall to discuss the App with the group.

A change jar will be passed around at each meeting and at events to raise money for youth programming, community building projects and outreach. Jaime and Palmer will be collecting cans and bottles, please bring them to the meetings.

Crime & Safety Task Force: Al Freeman

Mr. Freeman emphasized the need to have block captains for a good communication link within the neighborhood. The Neighborhood Watch group has the information to form, but has not done so yet.

Economic & Business development Task Force: Regina McArthur

The Task force met on May 30th with Julius Lawrence, Regina McArthur and Twiggy Billue. The group identified I-81 and is trying to partner with DOT to request what Southside TNT would like. The group also discussed the Save the Rain projects and the Family Dollar trash issue. There are a number of schools under renovation for next year, this could bring jobs to the community. Julius Lawrence is looking into the upcoming training programs offered by the JSBC. Rickey Brown was mentioned as a possible speaker to discuss the impact on DEDCO and UMEA.

Beautification Task Force: Patrona Jones-Rowser

Perennials have been added to the beds at the Rhama Garden. Mckinley Brighton PE teacher is interested in bringing the kids to the garden. The Task Force is working on Colvin and Beard beautification. SMNC bought a weed whacker and battery pack for the gardens.

Q. Did you apply for the greening grant? A. Yes, but hit a wall with the 501c3.

Voting Task Force: Co-chairs Angela Wright & Charles Pierce-El

All meetings will take place at SSIC (2610 S. Salina St.)

Voting Task force held the first Mayoral Candidate Forum, there will be additional forums in the future. There was a great turnout, about 80 people, and had lots of press coverage. Charles Pierce-El suggested that whenever a taskforce does something in the community, they wear a Southside TNT T-shirt. Ms. Wright stated that the City Court Judges/School Board forum tentatively scheduled for August 8th. Block Captain contact information needed to schedule a meeting. Petitions will be coming out tomorrow, people will be knocking on doors for you to sign. Make sure you only sign once and take your time deciding who you would like to support. CNI Works will be sponsoring a voter education booth at the Juneteenth event.

Youth & Education: Lori Covington

There is a 25% expansion in membership this month on the EGR. The group worked with young girls to explore the entrepreneurship of fashion. There was a meeting with Syracuse City School District Superintendent Jaime Alicea regarding violence in schools and retaining good teachers. The Superintendent extended an invitation to the Youth and Education Task Force to be a part of the committee to address issues. Tia Florence, raised in Syracuse, is an African American teacher at McKinley Brighton who was asked to leave because she doesn't have tenure.

Q. What can the community do? A. Contact the District. The Task Force should attend the School Board Meeting on June 14th at 5:30pm on Harrison St.

City-wide Board Update

The final strategic planning meeting was held on June 1st. A summary will be posted on the website www.TomorrowsNeighborhoodsToday.org

Announcements

- 1) Senator Valesky is sponsoring a Summer Reading Program for 4th – 6th graders. For more information visit Valesky.NYSenate.gov
- 2) Darko Manufacturing is creating a movement 'Making it in CNY' that consists of a group of manufacturers on ways to identify a better narrative of manufacturing in the area. There will be a Meet and Greet on June 14th.
- 3) Juneteenth event is on June 17th