

Facilitator Missy Zawacki & Dan Horan

Attendees: David Haas, David Baker, Stephen Skinner, Derrek Thomas, Sgt. William Croft, Beverly LaBier, Pauline Tucci, Margaret McVicker, MK Begiel, Jessica Kempisty, Tom Buckel, Mike Parzych, Joe Driscoll, James Arena, Mike Behnke, Al Tassi, Tim Rudd, Lee Fordock, Anna Maria DeSocio, Anna Maria Notarthomas, John P. Donahue, Andrew Snider, Janet Donohue, Katie Vorudran, Anthony Lambert, Mike Tollner, Terry McGovern, John Mariani

June 26th Minutes: Al Tassi motioned to approve the minutes.

Missy informed the group of surveys on the tables for the members to fill out; questions include future topic suggestions as well as opportunities for those interested in joining/forming a Task Force. Index cards were placed on the tables for members to submit any questions that were missed during the meeting.

Q. What is the stated goal of TNT as an organization as a whole?

A. The TNT Board is working on a focused mission statement through the strategic planning efforts. As Eastwood TNT, what can we do to take care of our problems, i.e. beautification committee (signs, benches, etc). The Parks Task Force covers green spaces. It was discovered that Lincoln Park is part of Eastwood TNT. The Facilitation team would like to consider having a focused meeting on Crime and Safety in Eastwood. This could include solutions, how we can education each other to protect ourselves and property, building a case for more police patrol. It is also being discussed that the Task Force updates might be covered quarterly, if no new developments have taken place.

A resident commented that the updates are 'ok' if something new or a follow thru has occurred, it doesn't need to be the same thing month after month. That is one of the reasons people do not want to come back.

Committee Updates:

Parks Committee: Mike Behnke informed the group that Missy Z and Lisa Matthews completed the butterfly garden. Visioning Voices has moved to Eastwood Heights Park, there will be a speaker from Philadelphia at the Palace Theater on September 26th. A volunteer sheet was passed around. Save the Rain program (which has invested 450,000 into the Park) met with Mike to see the additional improvements to Sunnycrest Park; which involved planting trees and gardens. They were impressed with the work. There is one drain that continues to be problematic. August 22nd Lemoyne students volunteer to come and clean Parks, etc. Contact Mike B. or Dan H. to assist in any cleanup efforts. Mike Parzyk mentioned that he had communications with the County, Jonie Mahonie, regarding funding for a Rain Garden off Clifton Ave. It was stated that any projects done should first consult with the neighbors. A resident stated that you have to knock on their doors, do not expect them to come to the TNT meeting.

Business Committee: Stephen Skinner stated that more efforts are needed to combat the litter issue; however, James St is relatively in good shape compared to other business corridors. A resident inquired about the people sleeping on benches. Sgt. Croft stated that there needs to be an intervention to help these people with mental health services. The Midler House continues to take shape.

Special Projects Update: David Haas presented images of the completed Sheridan Park Pavers project as well as the planting of the Butterfly Garden located near the play area at Sunnycrest Park. The Historic Signs are currently at David's dwelling and have received final approval from DPW to be placed in Sheridan Park. It will be installed sometime in August. The plan is to have a ribbon cutting ceremony once it is installed.

TNT City-wide Board Update: Missy Z. stated that the TNT Board is currently discussing its structure, policies and a Facilitator Handbook. These documents will be accessible to everyone once the Board has approved them. Eastwood currently has 'Committees' which may change to being described as 'Task Forces' to unify the language used across all 8 TNT sectors. Task Forces are meant to mean 'action'. In the future, Eastwood TNT will discuss the current 'Task Forces' and determine what is needed and who will Chair the additional Task Forces.

Issues for City Department Officials: Dan Horan stated that the September meeting will focus on a discussion around Crime and Safety in the Eastwood Neighborhood; working together as neighbors to come up with solutions. There is a perception for Eastwood residents that crime is a problem and people feel unsafe. However, the statistics say that crime is dropping in Eastwood. Drivers are running stop signs. 254 people have signed a petition asking for dedicated police patrol for Eastwood. Last month, Captain Shoff said there are no dedicated police for Eastwood. In the Eastwood business district, Shotwell Park to Milford (one block North and one block South) there have been 211 reported crimes that have been filed by the Police. However, there have

been over 1,600 calls. Avon Park area around Eastwood Heights Park, there were 274 calls last year. Senator Valesky and Assemblyman Magnarelli have been sent letters for COPS cameras on James St. and Eastwood Heights Park. The City doesn't have money for dedicated Police Patrol, they have to go where the gunshots are; politicians controlling the budget. It doesn't take a lot for people to get discouraged and want to leave. The Northside used to be beautiful, Mr. Horan stated that he would not live there now. The City would lose 50% of its tax base if Eastwood turned into the Northside.

Q. How much of the crimes were quality of life? For example, a car parks in a 17min loading zone all day. 911 and non-emergency line is called. Call repeatedly to bump up statistics. What good does calling do if the same car comes back a couple days later?

A. Mr. Horan stated that this is one of the reasons the petition was created.

Sgt. Croft stated that he works closely with Captain Shoff. Sgt. Croft was a Northside officer, 26 years on the job, came to Eastwood in 2000 – the issues Eastwood is experiencing is due to the lack of staffing, Eastwood lost its storefront and Captain Shoff is working on getting a dedicated officer back into a storefront. The crime statistics have dipped for major crime, the problem is the perceived crime (i.e. loud music, etc). The problem is that the community does not have an outlet like a storefront where you can go to complain to an officer who could do a follow up on the matter. Eastwood needs a dedicated officer to talk to; someone that is accessible like an officer on a bike or one located in a storefront; someone to give you a personal response from the Police Department. The Parking Checker assigned to Eastwood got her foot ran over. The Parking meters on James St. have all been fixed, the Checkers will start coming back.

Q. At the September meeting, who will be there....Nader, Police Chief?

A. The Facilitators are currently working out the details. Senator Magnarelli would be a great person to attend as he is a big proponent of the COPS Cameras.

Q. Having more Police and Cameras is reactive; we need to be more proactive. There are more homes in Eastwood for sale, a new generation of teens and sub-teens will be living here with nothing to do. You want Police to arrest them, but don't fight to get a community center reopened. They have one basketball court, skatepark and playgrounds which are good for kids under 11. There was a pool, but its gone. How do we get codes to step up and prevent the downfall of housing? You are on the verge of more youths on motorbikes which is something that occurred in 1960; and you are not ready for it. You just want to arrest them.

A. What do the kids want; they need to be at the table to communicate the types of activities they want.

Joe Driscoll offered to start a Task Force to address the youth engagement issue.

Sgt. Croft stated that a Municipal Ticketing Agency is currently waiting signature from the Governor. Minor offenses that clog up the current court system would go through an administrative law judge to rule on minor stuff.

448-8650 Community Policing Office.

Q. Call ins and the people cancel, can you explain this?

A. A lot of people will make a call – on petty theft with no suspect. 3 hours go by and they call back and cancel saying they will just file with their insurance company. When you cancel the call, it doesn't get counted into the statistics. There is an online reporting system- fill those out, they count the same as if an officer filed the report. SyracusePolice.org (link to the report on the page)

Announcements: An additional sheet was distributed listing Community Events.