

TNT Downtown and Lakefront Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

Zoom - Virtual Meeting - 5:30 pm

Facilitators: Bill Lee, Linda Llewellyn (minutes)

Attendees: Nicolas Diaz, Hannah Garty, Matt Geitner, Bill Lee, Robbie Lewis, Linda Llewellyn, Maria Maldonado-Lewis, Connor Rockhill, Jason Sharf, Tina Zagya

Call to Order: Bill Lee welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm, and introductions commenced. He reviewed the meeting Ground Rules.

Draft meeting minutes April 20, 2022: Connor Rockhill motioned to approve the minutes, Bill Lee seconded, and all were in favor.

Issues for District Representatives/Elected Officials/City Departments: No representatives were present. We continue to wonder about crime, especially violent crime in Armory Square recently. Residents reported that two men broke into several cars at Plum Court after taking a key fob from a car in the ground level parking lot. Everyone please remember to lock your car and don't leave any valuables inside, including key fobs.

Presentations:

1. Financial Empowerment Center - Maria Maldonado-Lewis, FEC Manager

The Financial Empowerment Center was established in 2019 and is dedicated to assisting any citizen by providing financial education. Syracuse has a partnership with Home Headquarters to meet residents "where they are." Certified counselors can meet in person 1:1, virtually, or at one of several locations throughout the city to help with a range of financial needs, for example, goal setting, setting up checking and savings accounts, and handling student loan debt. During Covid, counselors helped people obtain emergency services like avoiding eviction. There is a two-week waiting list to meet with a counselor, but everyone is welcome, and the service is free.

2. City of Syracuse Open Data Portal - Jason Sharf, Data Project Manager for the Office of Accountability, Performance, & Innovation (API)

The Open Data Portal gives citizens access to more than a hundred data sets online, including maps and visualizations, so that they can see how efficient the City is and see what is happening in the City. Some neighborhood data sets are

interactive and citizens can zero in on data using filters. Examples of available neighborhood data include where Syracuse police cameras are located, crime data, permits issued, and trash pick-up days. The site is not currently linked to the City's syrgov website but will be linked to the new website when it goes live. The portal is accessible at data.syrgov.net. Citizens are invited to fill out a request form for the addition of new data sets if the information they are seeking is not yet on the site.

City-wide Director's Update: Tina Zagya reported that the City-wide Directors had their first in person meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. The Syracuse Common Council approved TNT's budget and allocated an additional \$60,000 for TNT, a proposal put forth by Pat Hogan. The additional funds will double the amount available for special projects and will provide resources for sector marketing materials.

City as Canvas Update: Tina Zagya reported that the request for artist submissions is out for the mural at the Jazz Central location. The Downtown sector should plan on an in person meeting (location TBD) in July to meet artists, look at the proposed murals, and do a ranked choice vote to determine which mural will be painted in the sector. The approval process includes acceptance by the Public Art Commission. The goal is to get paint on the wall before winter sets in again. Regarding Lakefront, Jessica Alighieri has proposed several locations that still need to be vetted for flooding and possible disruption/destruction due to rerouting Interstate 81.

Announcements and Questions:

Connor Rockhill reported for the Downtown Committee that Le Melange, a small events venue has opened at 309 W Fayette Street, The Classic Bop, hats and art, opened at 203 E Jefferson, lights are up in Bank Alley, Corbett Corner located at 444 E Genesee Street is open and ready for tenants, and the special project custom bike rack being fabricated. Someone noted that the May 28th bike ride scheduled to depart from Clinton Square may conflict with the Blues Festival. Connor will follow up with Josh Wilcox.

Bill Lee noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be in September, 2022.

Adjournment: With no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Llewellyn