

MNLC
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP CABINET
September 22, 2014 @ 6:00 PM
Municipal Courtroom – Sheboygan Police Department

MINUTES

Members in attendance: Ald. Julie Kath, Henry Capetillo, Ellen Murphy, Chad Pelishek, Chief Domagalski, Mayor Vandersteen

Members excused: Steve Benish, Greg Liebig, Diane Wilcenski

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Neighborhood Associations Report

Gateway: Henry Capetillo reported that the Gateway Neighborhood Association has re-evaluated their goals. They are focused on creating a Business Association beginning with Michigan Avenue. They would also like to see a more diverse representation on the Association Board.

Speeding on Superior Avenue, mainly between 14th and 8th Street is a problem they feel needs more enforcement.

Ellis: Ellen Murphy, Treasurer of the Gateway Neighborhood Association spoke for the group. Ellis took the summer off and will begin meeting again in October. They will be focusing on getting new members and outreach efforts. Their first project will be the organization of an historic tour/walk through the neighborhood in conjunction with the Historical Society.

Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride

Update on Organizing Neighborhoods: Board Member, Penny Weber gave the report. Two neighborhoods are close to being organized. North Flats will be meeting the first Saturday in October and North Railway has a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 30th. Erie Hill is also working toward getting organized and has had several meetings to discuss goals and strategy. They will meet again at 6:30 on Oct. 16th in the Municipal Courtroom.

City Staff Updates

Mayor Mike Vandersteen: Through various community speaking engagements the mayor has been getting the word out about the neighborhood programs and Next Door social network.

Police Chief Chris Domagalski: Crime is down 1% so far this year compared to 2013, with burglaries being down 12%. Citizens need to be engaged in prevention efforts. The Explorers worked with neighborhood officers doing vehicle inspections for crime prevention.

Director of City Development Chad Pelishek: Building Inspection Department wrote up 569 properties in the North Flats Neighborhood for violations, with 219 receiving citations for non-compliance. Franklin Park Neighborhood was also inspected with an 80% compliance rate compared to the less than 50% in the North Flats Neighborhood. Chad emphasized that the goal is not to cite people – it's to get compliance on building code violations. If people can't meet the compliance date they should be encouraged to communicate with the City – the City is willing to give extensions to get the work done.

Chad also reported that seven houses in the Erie Hill neighborhood between 10th and 11th Street were razed and two more will be coming down. Habitat for Humanity has started construction on the first new house – a one-family, two-story home with a front porch. The intent is to build six more homes over the next two to three years. They are looking for families in need of home ownership. Habitat has a new program called “A brush with Kindness” where they provide funding for materials and the homeowners can help them do the repairs. Properties in the Gateway Neighborhood are already being targeted for this program.

There are some neighborhoods that are interested in community gardens. A city-wide inventory of all the vacant properties is being viewed to see if gardens similar to the one at 10th and Erie would be possible.

Mini-Grant Program and Timeline: Nancy Maring explained that \$10-15,000 would be available for neighborhood mini grants. Nancy researched other cities and how they handle the grants. Some of the areas the money could be spent included neighborhood organizing, neighborhood beautification, professional services, neighborhood and school partnerships. A 20% match from the neighborhood association is required (can be hours worked or in-kind donations).

Presentation by Heather Cleveland, Food Justice Director of Nourish: Nourish is a non-profit organization that brings fresh local food into schools. It's a collaboration between local farmers and volunteers to share meals made with fresh local ingredients with our kids and broader community in need. Programs include Farm to School, Snack Attack, Back Pack Program, Farm to Table, and Farm to Market. While providing a healthy meal, students are also receiving nutrition education.

Future Meeting Feature Presentations: Suggestions included Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride – history of different organizations. Roles and responsibilities of different city departments.

Open Forum: Denise Quasius, President of Governing Board at Sheboygan Leadership Academy in the Gateway Neighborhood. Many great things are going on in the neighborhood. One of the goals is safety and protection. There is a TLP located on 14th Street and regularly attend Public Protection and Safety Committee meetings to address placement of registered sex offenders. Because of the bike path, the schools, etc. they feel they are having a hard time making the point that this type of offender does not belong living in this area and they are waiving the law to make an exception to put the offenders there.

Adjournment