

MINUTES
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP CABINET

Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 6:00 P.M. in the Municipal Courtroom, Sheboygan Police Dept., 1315 N 23rd Street.
Mayor Mike Vandersteen presided.

Present: Mayor Michael Vandersteen, Gateway Neighborhood Association rep. Henry Capetillo & Steve Benish, Ellis Historical Neighborhood Association reps. Greg Liebig and Ellen Murphy.

Staff present: Chad Pelishek, Nancy Maring, Chief Chris Domagalski

Others present: Penny Weber, Diane Wilcenski, John Ambelang, Amy Bahr, Kathleen Beuttenmueller, Steve Benish, Pastor Ann Bullis, Ryan Burg, Henry Capetillo, Amber Chvarak, Joe Clarke, Betty Damrow, Peter Damrow, Bill Dreps, Charlotte Liddicoat, Greg Liebig, Gary Maertz, Frieda Methfessel, Ellen Murphy, Ric Olsen, Denise Quasius, Jarrett Strawn, Robert Trester, Rosemarie Trester, Jenny Given, Robert LaFave, Paul Schnicker, Nancy Lorenz, Ken Van Orden, Anthony Lorenz, Pattie McBride, Connie McCarty

This organizational meeting was called to order by Mayor Vandersteen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A survey of those attending the meeting was taken and the Survey Summary is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Vandersteen presented the purpose and goals of the Mayor's Neighborhood Leadership Cabinet (MNLC), as well as the future grant opportunities for Neighborhood Associations. The representatives of the Gateway Neighborhood Association and Ellis Neighborhood Association were introduced. Both organizations provide an update of what their respective organizations have been working on.

Diane Wilcenski discussed Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride (SNP), the goals of SNP, SNP board meetings, as well as SNP's partnership with the Sheboygan PD and neighborhood meetings held by SNP and how SNP can be a resource to any neighborhood wishing to hold meetings or form an association.

Penny Weber, representative of Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride and Sheboygan County Crime Stoppers discussed the National Night Out Event to be held on Tuesday August 5, 2014 at Fountain Park. Penny also spoke about the role that Crime stoppers plays in the community and that residents can make anonymous complaints about crime in the County.

Police Chief Chris Domagalski gave an update on the Sheboygan PD's Community Policing strategy and how neighborhood officers work within neighborhoods to improve quality of life, including holding neighborhood meetings.

Chad Pelishek gave an update on building inspection and how to report violations online. He also discussed Targeted Neighborhood Code Enforcement, and some discussion was had on the responsibility of out of town landlords in the City of Sheboygan related to the upkeep of property. In 2014, the City and Police Department in partnership have been targeting North Flats neighborhood. This neighborhood was selected based on the

increase in theft occurring here. Mr. Pelishek showed the attendees how to navigate the City's website to file a complaint related to garbage, code violations, or tall grass/snow shoveling. In the City, garbage complaints are handled by the Police Department, code violations by the Building Inspection Division, and tall grass/snow by the Public Works Department. In the past year, four neighborhoods were targeted for code enforcement, Kuene Court, North Railway, South Calumet, Indiana Ave Corridor. Through the enhanced code violation program, property values will increase and the perceived crime should decrease. Mr. Pelishek discussed the process that building inspectors follow from receiving the complaint, to issuing orders to reach compliance. The Raze order process was also covered. Vacant and foreclosed properties were also discussed and the issues the City staff has in finding entities to take of the property.

Discussion was held with neighborhood residents about targeting slumlords. Mr. Pelishek and Chief Domagalski stated that the two departments have targeted properties of the top 10 worst slumlords; however they have rights as well.

Nancy Maring gave a presentation on the City's involvement with the Nextdoor program and how neighborhoods can get involved and participate by starting or contributing to their websites on Nextdoor.com. Sheboygan has 27 launched neighborhoods (with 10 or more members), 19 pilot neighborhoods (with 1-10 members), and 17 unused neighborhoods. Currently, 732 members are using Nextdoor in the City of Sheboygan. The City is encouraging any and all Sheboygan City residents to join their neighborhood's Nextdoor website by giving presentations on Nextdoor at neighborhood meetings. Outreach efforts will expand to include informational kiosks staffed by the Department of City Development placed at community events such as National Night out and Farmer's Markets.

Mayor Vandersteen discussed possible future meeting presentations and stressed the formation of Neighborhood Associations so neighborhoods can take part as official members of the MNLC.

Mayor Vandersteen opened the floor for open discussion on neighborhood issues in Sheboygan. Issues ranged from slumlords, to vacant properties, to neighborhood associations and their functions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Nancy Maring
Recording Secretary