

**SouthWest Common Council**  
**Chair: Dawn Noto (SBA) Co-Chair: Gloria Edmonds (PLEX)**  
**Thursday, October 18, 2012**

**SouthWest Quadrant:** Eight Neighborhoods/One Community

- Changing of the Scenes (COTS)
- Corn Hill Neighborhood Association (Corn Hill)
- Dutchtown
- Neighborhood United (NU)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Ward Community Association (19WCA)
- Plymouth-Exchange Neighborhood Association (PLEX)
- SouthWest Area Neighborhood Association (SWAN)
- Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood Association (SBA)

**PRESENT:** **John Borek, John Boutet** (Communications Committee Co-Chair, Location 19), **Florence Clemmons** (Youth Engagement Network), **Frances N. Johnson** (SWAN, We Care), **Eleanor Coleman** (SWAN, Communications Committee Co-Chair), **John Curran** (PLEX Riverfront Charrette), **Carl Dickerson** (RPD), **Gloria Edmonds** (SWCC Co-Chair, PLEX), **DeWain Feller** (19<sup>th</sup> Ward CA), **Dorothy Hall** (PLEX), **David Hawkes** (NSC), **Linda Hedden** (Quad Team/NBD), **Frances N. Johnson** (SWAN), Jarred C. Jones (PLEX), **Deb Leary** (SW Libraries), **Bonny Mayer** (Corn Hill), **Elizabeth McDade** (FLHSA/Healthi Kids), **Lauren Morelle** (FLHSA/Healthi Kids), **James Muscatella** (Dutchtown), **Dawn Noto** (SWCC Chair, SBA Neighborhood Assn), **Rick Rynski** (NBD/BHD), **Lynnette Robinson** (COTS), **Joan Roby-Davison** (Sector 4 CDC), **Thad Schofield** (City-Business Development), **Robert Walker-Smith** (SWAN)

**Public Safety**

Carl provided statistics for SW area.

**QUAD Team Report**

**Thad Schofield**

- Continuing to work with D&L Groceries; final results will be known in next few months
- 2 Façade Grants on Jefferson approved
- **Canal St. BOA Update** - Jane Forbes, City of Rochester Environmental Specialist and Joe Biondolillo
  - Asking for support for 2 projects. Applying for brownfield funding for two areas via US EPA Brownfield Clean-up Program; can be up to \$200,000 (assessment or clean-up).
  - **Assessment** (25 Canal St. - north end of SW Quadrant) - .868 acres; part of Carriage Factory (historical, 1900's; made high-end carriages). Petroleum fuel toxins. Soil and groundwater contaminants. High interest because of the other development that is happening in that area.
  - **Clean-up** (937-941 Genesee St.) - automobile property, then dry cleaners; tax delinquent. City providing notice; will be offered at Environmental Auction at City Hall 11/2. City needs to get ownership so that they are eligible for grant funding. Petroleum contaminations. Limited to the property per assessment.
  - **IMPORTANT:** Asking for a Letters of Support from SWCC and any other community residents. Must show community support for these projects. Appl Deadline is 11/19; draft application will be posted on website by Monday. Will hear around May or June if grant received. Community will then be notified. EPA paperwork will go into the Fall (October 2013). Can start when agreements are finalized.

- No concern about competition with Bullshead BOA; EPA grant is Federal; Bullshead is a State grant
- Once an area has been identified as a BOA, it's easier to get further grant support.

#### **Linda Hedden**

- Jefferson Ave FIS; what's next? Next Discussion: **Monday 6 p.m.** at Anthony Square Apts, 70 Cunningham St.
- Owner occupant and investor-owned grants available
- Pedestrian walkway at 431 W. Main is forthcoming; new lighting going up
- Café is well attended; 46 seats

#### **Rick Rynski**

- Bullshead – no word on BOA application; no reason to think we won't get the grant.
- Demolition of 2 buildings on W. Main; problem with bids – re-bids needed; 6-wk delay
- Brooks Landing area – Flats Project (student housing, restaurant and credit union); construction to start late winter, early spring; completion in 2014

#### **David Hawkes**

- Genesee Valley Master Plan – revamping park area; will need a lot of community input. Suggestion: Indoor rowing facility (excellent tourist attraction); Pittsford has one.
- Completed 6 Neighborhood Uplifts in FIS area
- Revitalization Project coming to an end
- Holiday wreathes are on the way

#### **Special Discussion:** Robert Walker-Smith (SWAN) Re Bullshead Project

- Robert asking that Bullshead (the plaza and the area) be revisited. Has had a meeting with Rick Rynski, Joan Roby-Davison, Mayor Richards, and David Hawkes. Robert thanked team for work to date. Per Rick Rynski, two buildings (888 W. Main) should be going down in Jan. Robert proposing that all 4 buildings go down.
- Per DeWain, 19<sup>th</sup> Ward would like to see infill as opposed to full demolition. Cheaper to redevelop. Meeting result was that the buildings should go down; not in good shape; can replace buildings with ones that honor the character of the neighborhood. Robert wants to work with neighbors going forward; proposing to relocate businesses into the plaza. Definitely two schools of thought. Neighborhood United needs to be at the table. Need a larger community meeting before the year ends. Other stakeholders that need to be at a community meeting to discuss Bullshead: all building owners, Unity Health System.
- Muscatella noted that they've had buildings with bricks falling that were able to be repaired and are now an attraction. Dutchtown would like to be included in future discussions.
- Robert noted that based on intersecting streets, volume of traffic, community requests for jobs and places to eat, this area needs a strong signal that economic development will be happening soon.
- Suggesting that Bullshead Plaza be reconfigured; shipping side on Genesee St.
- Need Unity at the table; we will be in very bad shape if Unity leaves.
- Suggestion: Have a kick-off that invites Mayor and Stuart Putnam. Also to be invited: Leenhouts, Spiritus Christi, DePaul, Marvin Maye

#### **Neighborhood Associations**

- Youth Engagement Network & Community Updates – Florence Clemmons
  - Will be posted to Location SW
- COTS
  - Sunoco gas station is major problem with prostitution and drug activity; some activity in alley behind gas station; get license plates, call 9-1-1.
  - COTS now has a "group" on LocationSW
- Cornhill
  - Moving ahead: stop lights, stop signs.
  - Corn Hill website is now linked to Location 19.
- Dutchtown

- No Report
- 19WCA – DeWain Feller: House tour held 10/13, and was successful (more publicity planned for future tours).
  - Annual convention planned for 11/16 at Rochester Presbyterian Home.
  - Bulls Head interest also;
  - Criminal activity (vice) – sustained police presence needed
- NU
  - Not present
- PLEX – interested in making the area look better: Senator Gillibrand was present on riverfront to look at improvements.
- Gandhi House grand opening; Kennedy Tower open house for medical center
  - PLEX & Corn Hill have additional connection
    - Two businesses had back to school give-aways
    - Honored Tom Ferraro & John Curran for contributions
    - Plans to do basket give-aways for Thanksgiving
    - Newest member of PLEX was present: Jarred Jones, grandson of Monique Latimer
    - PLEX is selling pecans – should have them at November meeting
- SWAN
  - Freedom School application will be submitted tomorrow, 10/19. Very excited about offering a summer literacy program for 50 SouthWest youth. Quiana Rice has agreed to be the Site Coordinator; she has been a Children’s Defense Fund Ella Baker Trainer for 4 years and is now a consultant for the CDF. Quiana lives in the SouthWest Quadrant.
  - Big Thank You to all volunteers who showed up to help Grow Green on Saturday, 10/13.
- SBA
  - 1872 Café now open at 431 West Main Street 6:30 – 4:00 pm (M – S). Limited hours on Sunday. (46 Seats)
- Washington Square Park
  - Not present

## **Stakeholders**

- Healthi Kids
  - Contact Lauren Morelle at [laurenmorelle@flhsa.org](mailto:laurenmorelle@flhsa.org) or [elizabethmcdade@flhsa.org](mailto:elizabethmcdade@flhsa.org) for more info.
  - Brochures are available in multiple languages, including Somali.
  - Facebook & Twitter & Location 19 presence.
- SW Libraries
  - Literacy Navigators at Arnett Library (310 Arnett) on Tuesdays, 11am-3pm; get help with paperwork, health forms, school forms, job & housing applications, understanding bills, finding community resources; 473-3030 (Literacy Volunteers)
  - Fall Storytimes @ Arnett – Tuesdays, 11:15-11:45 a.m.; every Saturday 1-1:30
  - LEGO Club – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 4-5:30 p.m
- NeighborWorks
  - Not present
- Sector 4 CDC – report distributed & posted on Location 19.
- University of Rochester – not present
- Farmer’s Market – last week held; year has ended successfully in spite of incessant rain, etc.

## **Committees/Initiatives**

- SW Communications Committee – John Boutet

- Still working on the Wi Fi initiative and seeking financing for project. Communications meetings are held at 5 p.m. before SWCC meetings.
- SW Riverfront Planning
  - Rochester River Romance - celebration of 150<sup>th</sup> Camp Fitz-John Porter, with re-enactors and historians; intra-neighborhood cooperation was crucial to the success. John suggested a long term planning process based on heritage of area, linking to the Rochester Heritage Trail.
  - BOA will be holding a public forum for input on the Master Plan and recommendations for preferred options.
- SW Safety Net -
  - Collaboration of youth service providers who meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at 10 a.m. to offer resources and solutions in cases where dislocated youth are not responding to traditional interventions. SW Safety Net meetings now being held at SW Community Center (during the school year). Safety Nets are a product of the Neighborhood Consortium for Youth Justice.
  - SW Safety Net has a Location19 group that includes a flyer with information on all of the city-wide Safety Net locations and meetings.

Suggestion was made about the format of the meeting, possibly having half of the group speak one month, and the other half the next month; written reports with discussion only if a vote is needed, and further discussion on the format at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

*Eleanor Coleman & Joan Roby-Darison*

Eleanor Coleman, Secretary  
SW Common Council