

SouthWest Common Council

Thursday, 2/19/15, 6 p.m.

Host: Arnett Library

In attendance:

Jenn Ashworth	FLHSA Healthi Kids – jennashworth@flhsa.org
John Boutet	LocationSW.org - jboutet@frontiernet.net 328-4271
Florence Clemmons	Genesee Valley Little League, Etc. - florenceclemmons@gmail.com
Eleanor Coleman	ProsperRochester, Inc. - eleanor.coleman@gmail.com 224-5119
Mary Dan Cooper	19th Ward - marydan@frontiernet.net
Mary D'Allessandro	Self - mhd7444@hotmail.com
Carl Dickerson	NSC/RPD – cd1461@cityofrochester.gov
Dorian Hall	PLEX – dorian@pl-ex.org
Dorothy Hall	PLEX – dhall555@hotmail.com
Linda Hedden	City of Rochester - heddenl@cityofrochester.gov
Nora Herbert	JABA – noraherbert@yahoo.com
Jennifer Lenio	SW Libraries - jennifer.lenio@libraryweb.org 428-8272
Greg Norsen	Self – p18001@aol.com
Dawn Noto S	WCC Chair & Susan B. Anthony District - dnoto1872@gmail.com
Jeff Peters	Free to Fly - jpeters2@rochester.rr.com 233-6880
Diane Watkins	19th Ward - watdi45@gmail.com

Guests from Ibero-American Development Corporation:

Miguel Melendez, mmelendez@iberodevelopment.org

Dynell Cook, dynellc@iberodevelopment.org

RPD – Carl Dickerson

- Carl gave a report (house shooting, homicide, street robbery; arrest made on Seward St. murder); RPD is solving homicides at a high rate (over 90%)

Free to Fly - Jeff Peters (233-6880, jpeters2@rochester.rr.com)

- On a journey to understand poverty; attended the 12/13 Block Club Summit at FDRC. Saw a need for a city-wide directory for block clubs. Has drafted a document profiling each block club in Rochester so that information can be collected, shared and built upon.
- Concern that this type of database could get in the hands of people who misuse it for their own purpose and use it for unwanted marketing.
- This type of resource would be helpful for new residents moving into the neighborhood. Dawn noted that Location SW has many block clubs that have created their own “groups” to broaden communication. Open invitation to add more.
- Suggestion that NSC office send out the block club profiles so that they can be collected and made into one shared list.
- John Boutet recommended that Jeff contact Margie Meath who has regularly had her students working in the community and put together a local resource directory. Other suggestions: John Laing (charge of the SW Education Committee and Kelly Reed (DHS)

Project HOPE Update

- Working on Open Air Drug Markets in the city; began with the NE (N. Clinton Ave area). Residents concerned about the impact of drug market on the neighborhood as opposed to the

dealers themselves. Ibero was one of 18 communities awarded a Robert Wood Johnson award to address community health issues. Learned resident priorities: Violence, fear, intimidation, isolation, invasion, blocking public space, “dealers” as role models, trash & debris, declining property values, stores to adapt to illicit activity.

- Have been in conversation with city officials. City says there isn’t anything they can do to address this; need state to legislate. Couple of recommendations: (1) restorative practices models and (2) protective order for the community (needs State authorization); successfully implemented in NJ beginning in 1999. Involves Drug Offender Restraining Orders; drug offenders can’t return to the same sales location (peer influences, etc.). Post card is asking the state to take this situation seriously; we want state reps to see this as a neighborhood health issue as well as a public safety issue. Version of this was presented to City Council and not supported; too many legal issues.
- Note: Postcard should have contact information (website for signers to learn more about the issue).
- John Boutet noted that we would like to see more “alternatives” to drug dealing; mentioned OACES (Office of Career & Educational Services) at 30 Hart St.
- Jay Grasso, Field Rep for Ranzenhofer, is asking for community input and it was suggested that this be put on his radar.
- Police & parole services will be focusing funding and resources on targeted areas

SW Libraries - Jennifer Lenio

- New Children’s Librarian, Shamika (worked here previously).
- Very nice reception was held for Richmond Futch who created the mural inside the library.
- New program with help of UR students called Creative Minds; art & music after school projects on Mondays 4:30-6 & Wednesdays 5-6.
- March 14 - next Music Series featuring Thomas Torrisi who performs a variety of music styles, acoustic guitar, Eastman grad

QUAD Team - Nora Herbert

- Originated from Voice of the Citizen and the Beautification Project and, therefore, supported by the Mayor. Had a retreat in November to look at the goals the City has identified for the Quadrant this year. Offered 5-6 different workshops regarding community issues. Decided that 2 avenues need to be used: business & neighborhood. Expand and sustain how stakeholders work together in the community.
- Membership open to anyone. Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Will start to move the meetings around the Quadrant in anticipation of the expansion of the NSC service area.
- Quad Team meets during the day; SW Common Council meets at night.
- Leadership of Quadrant Team: Pam Chung, Nora Herbert, Suzanne Mayer, Melissa Parrish. Diane Watkins and Dorian Hall have accepted the leadership of the Neighborhood focus; Sherman Hardy has agreed to accept the leadership of the Business focus.
- One goal is to get all of the Neighborhood Associations to apply for 501c-3 status.
- Diane Watkins sees that her role is to bring the goals of the retreat to fruition. Says that she will be using the already-established SWCC forum for obtaining and sharing grassroots information.

FLHSA Healthi Kids – Jenn Ashworth

- Advocates for policy and practice changes that promote healthy kids in the community; recently working on recess. Working with School #19 to see what recess looks like in a

school. Parents don't like it being taken away as a form of discipline and punishment (concern is that students may not have the option to play in their neighborhoods). Not getting the required 20 minutes (some time used to explain the upcoming activity).

- Healthi Kids has advocated with RCSD to look at the existing policy. Added this point to RCSD's current focus on the high suspension rate. Input welcome. Written information made available

SWCC Education Committee - John Boutet

- Met last night; Jay Grasso, Senator Ranzenhofer's Field Rep attended. Gave Grasso the overview.
- Currently fighting for School 44 slated for closing. Need City, County & State support to keep neighborhood schools open.
- Last PTO meeting held at 44 reasonably well attended by neighbors, parents, and school staff; need more parents.
- Education Committee members will advocate for keeping neighborhood schools open to School Board members individually; asked attendees here to send a letter as well.
- Mary D'Allesandro got a call from School #4; "children need to be respectful to one another; it's 8 p.m. and your child should be going to bed at this time." She has tried to reach the principal to let her know how impressed she was with the phone call. Healthi Kids noted that the robo-calls are a very effective reminder and work well with parent attendance at School #19.

NSC Quadrant Report - Linda Hedden

- City has just started a roofing program; applications started yesterday and are accepted at the NSC offices through 3/17. Two time periods of applications (May - June is second round). Brochures made available. There will be a drawing in each NSC area. Needs are great; funds are limited. Linda noted that this project was brought about through a grassroots push. ABC will begin processing the applications; City of Rochester will determine eligibility and coordinate roof installation. Contractors were selected via RFP. If program successful, likely that it could continue. (estimate that approximately 100 projects could be accomplished)
 - Concern about getting the word out, especially to seniors who may not be internet savvy. Eleanor noted that NeighborWorks has already sent out info; SW Community Roundtable listed it.)

Is there going to be a collection point for the Quadrant meeting minutes so the community can be informed? Dorian will suggest this to Nora. John Boutet offered them to set up a group or post them on SW Common Council.

PLEX – Dorothy Hall

- Meeting with Stantec, company doing the design for the community park in the PLEX neighborhood. Will include raised gardens, area for teens, equipment for elders, multi-space (flat gaming services for kids but skating in the winter), area for community engagement (movies, etc.). Park located near roundabout, includes the roundabout; working with the Landmark Society since it is part of the underground history. Rochester Center for Community Design (rrcdc.org) helped PLEX residents plan the park.
- Any info on the Master Plan that affects the area near the pool? Talk is to make the street smaller, one direction, adding parking, taking away the lighting in the park.

- No meetings during March but still working. Learned that poverty is in suburban areas as well as in the City. Transportation an issue. Training needed for young people. Elderly don't have transportation to get to stores.
- BOA funding was approved for PLEX for \$44,000 to provide community engagement.

19th Ward - Mary Dan Cooper

- Skating Party last Sunday at Ice Rink in GVP. UR & 19th Ward joint effort; well attended; food from D'ellisandros and Menezee
- **Palm Sunday Breakfast 3/29, 8-9:30 a.m.** at Rochester Presbyterian Home; Speaker: Chief Ciminelli
- Candlelight Dinners held last weekend
- Wine glasses made for 50th anniversary.
- Quilt being made out of the various t-shirts they've had over the years; probably will be raffled at next convention.

Working on improving and activating the website.

Genesee Valley Little League, Etc. - Florence Clemmons

- Registration information for GVLL made available; lots of sponsors this year. Only 9 registered so far; please advertise the League widely. Larry Floyd is the President of League; Florence Vice-President; Location SW has current information. Annual Parade will take place. Scott Beck - Sponsorship Coordinator thanked everyone for sponsoring teams.
- **Hustle to Health - Fri, 2/27, 6-8 p.m.** over 150 people came last month; Razorsharks, line dancing, Lancers this month, relays, etc. Resource representatives: City, Foodlink does cooking demos; Sponsored by: City of Rochester Rec, School #19 & Woodward Health Center
- Scott Beck - owns student housing; wants to do a special project called SouthWest Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt & Community Resource Fair. Want to alert residents of the SouthWest about all the events and activities that are happening in the SW. **Sat., April 18 -** Ice Rink will lay down a Sport Court; cotton candy, snow cone, bounce house. Scavenger Hunt - need 10 questions from each neighborhood as the Scavenger Hunt questions. Would like to make this an annual event. Also looking to do a 1K or 1/2 K for kids.
- Beautification - met with Neighborhood United; church group cleaned corner of Jefferson & Brown. Cars speeding in that area. Do this by beautifying that corner (mural on train track, re-landscape the garden, add benches, something to slow people down). Next step, engage SBA and Dutchtown to work with them. Also working with Cornell Cooperative Ext. "Maintenance" of the gardens is the biggest challenge.
- Hockey program doing very well - about 50 youth involved.
- Florence drives the Foodlink Curbside Market Truck 4 days a week; 3 sites a day. Go inside and stay for about one hour at each site.
- Cooking Matters program at the West Avenue TOPS.

Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood - Dawn Noto

- Dawn announced that there is a proposal to move the "low impact" Family Dollar at Bull's Head to 715 W. Main St. (across from St. Peters/St. Paul), where it would become a "high impact" store (alcohol, cigarettes, and lotto). Concern that this is another small "one-box" model being proposed for a main gateway into our community. Zoning Board approval needed. Have to consider the impact of small stores in the area closing and leaving empty storefronts as well as pulling business away from Rite Aid which has a positive presence. Reducing the number of corner stores would reduce sales of drug paraphernalia, blunts and

crack pipes. It was noted that Family Dollar dollars don't stay in the community. Might be easier to work with storefronts to address community concerns.

- SBA lost a very important neighbor last month - Yahya Abdullah. Great loss to our community.
- Sanctuary Village on Litchfield St. for the homeless has opened and can serve up to 50. SBA has been serving dinner every Tuesday at 5:30. Cunningham Carriage Apartments residents have also been involved and have started a craft project with the homeless shelter residents. The last SBA Neighborhood Association meeting was held at the Cunningham Carriage Apartments which has forged strong relationships. The Social Worker, Sister Grace, has found 3 residents a place to live.
- Communication - SBA is now on Facebook where stories and photo albums can be posted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eleanor Coleman

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