

**NBN6 Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday February 11, 2008**  
**NET Office 846 S. Clinton Avenue**  
**5:30 – 7 pm**

**Present:** Ruth Andrews, Joanne Balliet, Gary Bogue, Bob Boyd, David Chappius, Lt. Frank Churnetski, Allison Clark, Ofc. Mike Cotsworth, Mary D'Alessandro, Dot Gulardo, Dave Halter, Amy Happ, Chris Jones, Kate Kuholski, Joan Lindberg, Ed Lindskoog, Gale Lynch, Geri Machado, Joe Machado, Matt McCarthy, Rose O'Keefe, John O'Neil, Sue O'Neil, Matt Perdue, Victoria Posner, Allan Richards, Joe Rittler, Ofc. Mark Rohr, Pete Saxe, Tony Sciarabba, Jeff Springut, Larry Staub, Eilleen Thomas, Paul Urai, Carlene Woodward

**Excused:** Mike Thompson

**Notes:** Joan

### **Introductions and Community Sharing**

**Gale Lynch (Hickory NUTS and SWPC Neighborhood Council)** reminded people of the ongoing Knowledge Co-op. Both the Hand Tool and the Power Tool workshops will take place at Dave Halter's home at 159 Caroline St. To register for any of the co-op classes call Allison Clark at 256-1740 X 104. ... The Neighbors Council is starting an e-newsletter. Contact Allison Clark ( [aclark@swpc.org](mailto:aclark@swpc.org) ) if you would like to subscribe to the Neighbors Council e-newsletter. ... Gale said that the first anniversary of the Marie Daley playground reconstruction will be celebrated on Saturday June 14 from 1 to 4 pm. Artist Ginny Casseta will conduct art and nature projects and help people construct mobiles. ... The Neighbors Council PAC TAC walk will take place on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>. Meet at the NET Office at 6 pm.

**Lt. Frank Churnetski (NET)** said that the next exam for the Rochester Police Department will be held on May 10. The deadline to apply for the exam is April 2.

**Joanne Balliet (SEAC)** reported that a training session to learn the techniques for graffiti removal will take place on February 26. ... The United Way day of Caring will take place on May 8<sup>th</sup>. ... Helen Hogan (SEAC) and Melanie Warren (Mt. Hope Merchants Association) are attending the City Planning meeting regarding a 4 to 6 month moratorium on construction along a stretch of Mt. Hope Avenue.

**Paul Urai (HPN)** said that the next PAC TAC walk will take place on February 27. Please meet at the NET Office at 6 pm.

**Ed Lindskoog (HPN)** reminded folks that the Boy Scouts are in desperate need of scout leaders in the Southeast. If you would like to volunteer, please call 244-4210.

**Matt Perdue (Swillburg & the ESCAPE Committee)** reported on progress to enhance S. Clinton Avenue. The committee met with artist John Grieco and worked on a design for a sign at S. Clinton and Highland Parkway. The sign must be both artistic and functionally easy to use. One strategy is to have boards printed with messages that recur (the website of Swillburg for example). Matt will reach out to individual neighborhood leaders who would like to use the sign. A similar sign will be designed for South Clinton near Byron St. The ESCAPE Committee will meet with the City's Street design team next month and will present them with a wish list for upgrades to the avenue. This project is funded by multi-modal monies that were secured by Assemblywoman Susan John.

**Bob Boyd (SWPC)** distributed the latest issue of The Wedge. The next issue will be printed in full color. If any neighborhood would like to write an article for The Wedge, please speak to Bob. ... Bob distributed a handout on graffiti, which discusses short-term solutions to a problem that is getting worse. SWPC will begin to inventory graffiti, take pictures, make a data base, and ask volunteers to erase it from public spaces. Clean up will take place on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The City of Rochester will concentrate on power spraying and sand blasting. Volunteers may pick up materials at the SWPC Tool Library. Someone asked why the perpetrators are not required to clean up the graffiti. Lt. Churnetski responded that suspects have to be convicted before they can be forced to do community service. The City goes after convicted taggers for cost. Joan Lindberg asked about training for volunteers. Pete Saxe responded that Tony Diaz (City of Rochester) will train volunteers at SEAC Office on Feb. 26.

**Rose O’Keefe** said that the Regional History Fair will take place on June 14 at the Buckland Historical Site on Westfall Rd. in Brighton.

**Larry Staub**, the Monroe Co. Director of Parks, plans to attend our monthly NBN6 meetings, since Highland Park (and Genesee Valley Park) are integral sites within Sector 6. Welcome, Larry.

**Matt McCarthy (City of Rochester Community Planning)** shared the following information with the group:

NBN LIAISON TALKING POINTS – February, 2008

- 1) VISTA Literacy Volunteers in Libraries
  - Working out of branch libraries
  - Creating literacy asset directories
  - Part of the Mayor’s literacy campaign
  - VISTA coordinator would like VISTA workers to go to Sector committee meetings as part of their community orientation
- 2) Public Art Inventory
  - City developing an inventory of public art
  - There has been no one City Department behind art projects, people in the community may know this best
  - Request future agenda placement – Use a map to identify public art in the sector. Looking for Art location, and if known, artist name, when installed, type of art
- 3) NBN Institute
  - Leadership training available at grassroots, volunteer and leadership levels – Interested groups should contact Glenn Gardner @ 865-0371
- 4) Community Review of the City’s Draft Housing Policy• Southeast, 7 p.m., Wed., Feb. 20; Cornell Cooperative Extension Auditorium, 249 Highland Ave.
- 5) Housing Provider participation
  - The New York State Property and Small Business Owners Coalition has offered to commit housing provider representatives to the NBN Process
  - Representatives will be local property owners
  - The intent is to ensure that all perspectives are part of the planning process
- 6) NBN Community Initiatives
  - Slater’s Raiders – supporting anti-gang group
  - Foundation support, NBN staff met with over ten foundations to coordinate support for community activities
  - Capacity Building Opportunities Faith-based Initiatives and Community Collaborations Conference in Buffalo- March 12<sup>th</sup>, cost \$60 (handout)
  - Free HUD Training @ Niagara University: Training for non-profit board (Spring); Strategic Planning (Summer) and Fiscal Management (Fall)

Joan Lindberg (Lilac) said that the NBN6 website is alive again. Please visit [www.NBNSector6.org](http://www.NBNSector6.org) and see the new winter photo on the home page. Vern Lindberg, our webmaster, plans to post a letter on the homepage which members can use to lobby Albany for equity in state aid. Rochester receives far less state funding per person than our neighbors in Syracuse and Buffalo.

**David Chappius (Chair of Sector 6)** reminded people that the deadline for submission for United Way Mini Grants is February 28. Swillburg is not applying for the UW grant this time. David will be happy to mentor people who want to apply. This grant has a quick turn around time. ... David thanked the roomful of people for attending NBN on such a cold night. At least in Sector 6, NBN is alive and well and building the community.

**David Chappius (Swillburg)** hawked Swillburg’s new merchandise – hats, water bottles, tee shirts. David also reminded folks that Swillfest will take place on March 28 at the German House. Tickets for dinner and dancing are \$16 for adults and \$8 for children.

**Sue O'Neil (Azalea Neighbors)** distributed the latest issue of The Azalea View. ... The Azalea Neighborhood had its first "Eight More Weeks 'Til Spring" Potluck Dinner January 27th at St. John's Home. About 40 neighbors attended, including Parks Director Larry Staub and his wife Dawn. It was a great way to spend a winter evening!

**Mary D'Alessandro (NYS Coalition of Property Owners and Businesses)** spoke about the need to bring local investors back into the housing rental market. Absentee landlords are a problem. Mary objected to using the point system against landlords. Joan Lindberg suggested that the May St. Block Club Good Neighbor Code (soon to be up on the NBN6 website) is a great template for neighborhoods to use to resolve tenant – resident problems.

### **NET Update:**

**Pete Saxe** said that Sector 6 is a model for others sectors. Folks in the Southwest are hoping to set up a farmer's market at Brooks Landing like the one in the South Wedge. ... Tentative dates for the Baber A.M.E. Spirit Parade are May 3 or May 17. Clean Sweep is set for May 10 in our Sector. Please let Pete know of any neighbors who are in need of help. ... The Housing Council is using the NET Office for landlord training. There will be a training session for deaf landlords.

**Lt. Frank Churnetski** introduced two of Rochester's Finest as part of the Get-To-Know-A-Cop program.

**Officer Mike Cotsworth** has 15 years experience working in our area. Mike works on the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon (3 – 11 pm). The area is fairly quiet right now other than some parking issues in the Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood. Regarding graffiti, please note descriptions and clothing of taggers and call 911 immediately. West side youth are coming to our two recreation centers, the one at 999 South Ave. and the one at the Gateway Center. These youth sometimes cause trouble.

Police cars in our area are: E-77, E-78, and E-79.

**Officer Mark Rohr** has 11 days experience on the job. Mark is a Pearl St. resident. While off-duty, he caught a suspect who was breaking into cars and a residence. Nice way to begin a police career!

Lt. Churnetski said that there has been a rash of business and street robberies in the southeast. An e-mail crime alert was disseminated regarding these crimes. An anti-violence detail is addressing this problem. ... Dominos Pizza on Mt. Hope Ave. was the victim of a robbery. ... NET Officers Brad Goater and Steve Edgett made a drug arrest on Pembroke St. (David Chappius and Matt Perdue had called 911 about suspicious drug activity). Nice job, Gentlemen! ... Steve Edgett caught 5 graffiti taggers, paint in hand, behind the NET Office. The taggers were 14 and 15 years old.

### **Budget:**

Gale Lynch removed her Request for Expenditure.

### **Highland Bowl Concerts:**

Joan Lindberg spoke about a meeting on January 21, 2008 at the Monroe Parks Dept building. Jeff Springut, who was seeking approval for up to 8 concerts in Highland Bowl, met with several neighborhood leaders, County Legislator Harry Bronson, and Parks Director Larry Staub. Legislator Bronson had informed NBN6 that the proposal for "up to 8" events was coming before the Parks and the Ways and Means Committees for approval. Neighbors were concerned that the Bowl could be fenced for 8 weekends during the summer. The Springut events would be scheduled first and might preclude neighborhood use of the Bowl, such as Wedgestock and the BASWA – George Eastman House Film Festival. During 2006 and 2007, Jeff Springut held two concerts each in Highland Bowl, not the eight events that had been approved by the County Legislature. Jeff agreed to amend his proposal to "up to 5" events.

Lessons learned at the meeting:

~ need for a formal feedback mechanism regarding concerts and their neighborhood impact. → An evaluation meeting will take place in the fall.

~ better communication between and among the neighborhoods, NBN6, the Parks Department, our County legislator and the promoter. → Larry Staub and Jeff Springut will receive NBN6 meeting minutes and are welcome at NBN6 meetings.

The proposal to hold “up to 5 events” in Highland Bow comes before the full Monroe Co. Legislature on Feb. 12.

Jeff Springut said that one Bowl concert will take place on June 7 or June 8 as a benefit for the Veterans Outreach Center.

Jeff said that he will have definite dates for the concerts at the March NBN6 meeting.

Q: Why do you have to use that ugly fence? A: the fence is used for crowd control and collecting tickets. Jeff Springut spent several thousand dollars to cover the snow fence with mesh silk-screened picket fence.

Larry Staub said that the Parks Department has its own snow fence now (it had previously borrowed the City’s fence). The fence is erected by Parks Department employees on Friday and is dismantled on Monday for weekend events.

Q: Are you selling alcohol? A: Yes, beer and wine and perhaps a specialty drink.

Q: Will the event end early? A: Yes, because the Bowl is not lit.

Q: Who will clean up the litter in the neighborhood? A: The promoter cleans the area immediately around the Bowl. Please contact Jeff Springut if other areas are impacted. [js@rochesterevents.com](mailto:js@rochesterevents.com)

### **Rochester Healthy Home**

Dot Gulardo and Kate Kuholski were our guest speakers. Rochester’s healthy Home is located at 700 West Main St. Healthy Home is a collaborative effort of The University of Rochester, Rochester Fatherhood, and the SWAN. Groups and visitors learn about environmental health and household hazards. Healthy Home provides resources and referrals for problems such as lead poisoning, asthma, and chemical safety. They distribute lists of green cleaning materials and tips for basic housekeeping. The facility reaches out to landlords, renters, neighborhood groups, professionals and anyone who needs this information. Dot distributed Healthy Home brochures to the group.

The Rochester Healthy Home is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. Drop in for a visit on Wednesday afternoons from 3 to 5 pm, or call ahead ( 529-9957) to schedule a specific time to visit.

Their e-mail address is [healthyhomerochester@gmail.com](mailto:healthyhomerochester@gmail.com).

The City of Rochester provides free carbon monoxide and smoke detectors to residents.

### **Quadrant Meeting with Mayor on the City Budget**

On Wednesday February 6, Southeast neighborhood leaders met at Gleason Works to discuss the City’s upcoming budget. Participants defined what they perceived to be priority City services as well as opportunities to raise and or save money for the budget. The Budget Department collected all suggestions. It was an energizing, out-of-the-box brainstorming session. Many people offered to accompany Mayor Duffy to Albany to lobby for Rochester’s equitable share of State. Individual citizens will have an opportunity to attend a Budget Meeting at Gleason Works on March 4, 2008.

### **Mt. Hope Avenue Moratorium.**

Joan Lindberg shared information and a map regarding the City’s request for a moratorium on construction and demolition on a stretch of Mt. Hope Ave. Thanks go to Zina Lagonegro for providing the information. The following is a quote from the Planning Staff Report:

#### **Existing Land Use**

The Mt. Hope Avenue corridor between Elmwood Avenue and Crittenden Boulevard is zoned C-2 Community Center district. The intent of the C-2 District is to provide diverse commercial development along gateway transportation corridors and neighborhood or village centers with a dense mixture of uses such as housing, retail and other complementary uses that serve the adjacent neighborhood and the community at large. The C-2 District is preserved through appropriate design elements, amenities or treatments that create, enhance and reinforce the design relationships between the buildings, sites and streets and still establish an ambience that is uniquely urban and pedestrian-oriented.

There are eighteen properties located with the proposed moratorium area. Existing commercial development along the east side of Mt. Hope Avenue is characterized by retail, several sit-down and take-out food establishments, a CVS drug store, a beauty salon, a McDonalds restaurant with a drive-through, a church and two vacant commercial structures. The west side of Mt. Hope Avenue is developed as medical offices and parking for the University of Rochester, a gas

station, an auto repair facility, and a bank with a drive-through.

### **Adjacent Land Use**

N O-S Open Space and C-2 Community Center

S C-2 Community Center

E R-1 Low Density Residential

W University of Rochester IPD#5 and R-1 Low Density Residential

### **Purpose of the Moratorium**

The temporary moratorium on all building permits and Certificates of Zoning Compliance is being requested for the purpose of conducting a land use, transportation, and planning study for Mt. Hope Avenue between Elmwood Avenue and the E. Henrietta Road Raleigh Street intersections. The study will include an inventory of the existing land uses and development patterns; recent and proposed developments; parcel-level land use and urban design (aesthetics) conditions for future land use plans; corridor management and transportation goals; bicycle/pedestrian planning; and, recommendations for zoning code changes and/or overlay districts relative to future development.

This portion of Mt. Hope Avenue is undergoing a number of planning efforts:

□ The City of Rochester's Street Design Division is in the design phase for the complete reconstruction of Mt. Hope Avenue between Elmwood Avenue and Crittenden Blvd.

□ The University of Rochester has indicated that in the spring of 2008, they will be submitting a new Master Plan that will guide development of their campus. A mixed-use, "college-town" theme is being proposed along the west side of Mt. Hope Avenue.

□ A private developer is considering development possibilities at two locations on the east side of Mt. Hope Avenue in advance of the street reconstruction project and the adoption, by City Council, of the University of Rochester's Master Plan and associated zoning map and text amendments.

□ The Mt. Hope neighborhood and merchant association are revisiting the Strong Neighborhood Study, a study conducted in the 1990's of the neighborhoods adjoining the University of Rochester/Strong Hospital, to determine whether the study effectively addresses current and future conditions and trends.

It is recognized that significant public and private investment is proposed in this specific area. It is rare that an opportunity arises that allows for a complete assessment of a major transportation gateway in preparation of development that will certainly enhance the long term vitality of this corridor and the community at large by creating a dense, vibrant urban streetscape and a safe and pleasing pedestrian environment.

**NEXT NBN6 Meeting will be on March 10, 2008.**

**New Location:  
NeighborWorks  
570 South Ave.  
5:30 – 7 pm**