

NBN Sector 6 Meeting
September 9, 2008 5:30 – 7 pm
On the Meadow in Highland Park

Present: Shaneka Allen, Sue Bellinger, Bob Boyd, Karanele Bradley, David Chappius, Allison Clark, Ruth Danis, Dessiree Harris, Andrea Jeffries, Cynthia Knox, Joan Gray Lindberg, Jade Lukus, Geri Arno Machado, Joe Machado, Matt McCarthy, Aaron McGowan, Rose O’Keefe, Tierra Parris, Matt Perdue, Victoria Posner, Annie Pride, Roger Ramsay, Lisa Reagan, Tony Sciarabba, Kendra Smiley, Eilleen Thomas, Paul Urai, Carlene Woodward

1. Community Sharing

Sue Bellinger reported on a very successful Ice Cream Social in the **Azalea Neighborhood**. About 50 people attended, including folks from adjacent neighborhoods. Wegmans was kind enough to donate the ice cream! Larry Staub brought the Parks Department electric car. It generated a big charge with neighbors.

Pete Saxe gave the report from the **Neighborhood Service Center (NSC)**.

NSC finally has a full compliment of police officers.

The leader is Lt. Jay Maitland, formerly from the Norton St. NET Office.

In Sector 6, Officers Brian Bannerman and Brad Goater take care of us.

In Sector 7, Officers Steve Edgett and Herm Santos are the go-to guys.

In Sector 8, Officers Tony Bongiovanni and Rob Wetzel are in charge.

Please welcome all of these gentlemen to our neighborhood when you see them.

Pete did not want to comment on crime, other than to say that Sector 7 has been hit hard with violence. There is trouble with bars on Monroe Avenue and Gitsis. The latter has agreed to curtail its late night hours of operation to deter violent crime.

There will be no Clean Sweep this fall, but the Beechwood area is having a mini clean sweep on its Challenge Street. 100 Americorp volunteers are signed up to work.

Beechwood is one of the City’s Focused Investment Strategic Areas.

Matt McCarthy (City Planning) said that an intern from St. John Fisher College will be working on the City’s Community Arts Inventory.

Carlene Woodward (Highland Park Neighborhood) announced the picnic in the park on Sunday September 14th from 3 to 7 pm. Bring food to share and a chair. There will be music, raffles and children’s events. The location is the playground at Meigs and Linden.

Ruth Danis (Highland Park Neighborhood) said that she lives on Mul-baby St. Many new babies were born to Mulberry Street residents. Ruth would like to explore the topic of education in the southeast quadrant of the City.

Bob Boyd (South Wedge Planning Committee) thanked all the people who came to Wedgestock. ... Bob reported that about 4,200 people attended the Vintage Movies in the Bowl during the 5-day event.

Allison Clark said that the **Gregory Street Block Club** had its first block party.

Lisa Reagan (Cypress – Linden) said that Linden St. between South and Mt. Hope Avenues is experiencing a large volume of traffic of very heavy trucks, tractors, and buses. These vehicles are way over the 3 ton limit. Pete Saxe wondered if the recent construction on South Ave. and Gregory St. was the cause of the increased traffic.

Roger Ramsay (Highland Park Neighborhood) invited everyone to come to the Taste of the Neighborhood picnic at Meigs and Linden on Sept. 14th.

Rose O’Keefe plans to host a follow up to the **Gregory St. Block** party with an open house in late October. ... Rose asked for an update on the elections for NBN6 Officers. In January 2009, NBN6 needs to choose a new sector chair and sector secretary.

Joan Lindberg (Lilac Neighbors) submitted the NeighborGood Final report for the NBN6 State of the Sector Conference. Joan also completed the final report for the Lilac Neighbors’ NeighborGood grant. ... Lilac Neighbors and May St. Block Club will participate in a bulb-planting project on Saturday October 4. The tulip and daffodil bulbs are from the City’s Dept. of Forestry. If your neighborhood wants to participate, please contact Stacey Estrich at Stacey.Estrich@CityofRochester.Gov before September 26. ... The Lilac Neighbors will hold a Community Harvest Dinner on Sunday October 19 at the auditorium of St. John’s Home. The potluck supper will feature New York State produce, cider and wines.

Cindy Knox (Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood) spoke about Wilson Days at Mark’s Park. A group of 15 students from the U of R worked very hard to cut down dead trees, prepare soil for a garden plot, and lay down mulch in Mark’s Park, all the while dodging rain drops. In October, Upper Mt. Hope will plant bulbs in the park, thanks to the City’s free neighborhood bulb distribution.

Shaneka Allen (South Ave. Recreation Center) distributed the Fall and Winter schedule of activities for children at the Rec Center. Shaneka also said that the Rec Center has a Step Team who is eager to perform at neighborhood events.

David Chappius (Swillburg) distributed the latest New Yorker newsletter. ... David invited everyone to free concerts in Otto Henderberg Park for the Swillburg Rocks the Park program. Concerts are every Wednesday night in September at 6:30 pm. Hots and hamburgs are for sale. ... On Sat. October 25, Swillburg’s Spooktacular will be held at the Artisan Church on S. Clinton Ave. from 4 to 8 pm. The Artisan Church is donating its space as long as the children will have free admission. Food for Spooktacular includes donuts, cider and pasta. ... Swillburg is trying something new. Dog Walking Nights will be held twice in October and twice in November. The Dog Walking Teams will create a list of possible code violations. They will also pick up trash. ... For the next NBN meeting, David will bring tickets for the Swillburg flat screen TV raffle. Tickets are \$5 each. Second prize is \$300 cash.

Matt Perdue (Swillburg and ESCAPE Committee) spoke about the United Way grant for art in the community. Contact Matt if you have questions about applying for this grant or if you want him to send you the application. Matt.Perdue@wegmans.com

2. Sector Planning

Matt McCarthy said that our Sector is at the last step of the planning phase. Topic leaders will meet with City Officials. Since Winton Buddington and John O’Neil are both educators, a late afternoon or evening meeting would probably be best. Pete Saxe will work on setting a date.

Matt McCarthy will send Joan the draft plan, and Joan will email it to everyone.

HOMEWORK: Review the draft plan before the October 13th meeting.

On October 13, NBN6 will review the plan and vote to accept it.

3. Guest Speakers for the coming year

~ **Rick Dollinger**, Democratic candidate for NYS senate, would like to speak to neighborhood groups. Given that NBN6 is funded with CDBG dollars, even the appearance of political campaigning is frowned upon. However, both Rick Dollinger and **Joe Robach** are speaking at the October 21 Swillburg meeting. David Chappius has invited NBN6 members to attend the Swillburg meeting. If many additional people come, the venue of the meeting may need to change from the NSC Office (formerly known as NET).

~ **Community Design Center**. In looking at planning projects, CDC balances the needs of the neighborhoods with those of the institutions driving development.

~ **College Town / Mt. Hope Reconstruction Project**

Marcia Barry of the City's Planning Committee will talk to NBN6 about the Mt. Hope Ave. / College Town redevelopment project.

The U of R also needs to be present at the meeting so people can ask questions of them. What about the shops, and the changing traffic patterns?

Betty Dudman works in the real estate department at the U of R and is a good resource. SEAC played a big role in the College Town project. SEAC needs to reach out to the Sector and to communicate.

We need to look at the broader picture of College Town, and its impact on the whole sector. What impact will new businesses have on established businesses, for example on South Avenue?

Sue O'Neil is a member of the Mount Hope Avenue Task Force, representing the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery. College Town refers to the proposed design district designation for the area coming from Zoning which is still in the draft stage.

Two public meetings regarding the Mt. Hope reconstruction project were held this summer. Everyone on the NBN6 email distribution list was notified and invited to attend. Aaron McGowan of Upper Mt. Hope said that the public meetings were very well attended - "standing room only."

~ Someone from **the City** needs to define how the Sector is supposed to be informed about development. When should a developer come before the Sector within a project timeline? What is the role of NBN in the project planning? Of whom do we ask that question?

~ **Old Psych Center** (Terrence Building on Elmwood Ave.)

~ **Al Sigl Center** on the new Medical Motor Service on S. Clinton Ave.

~ **CityGate developer**

4. Budget

NBN6 has \$1250 to disburse from last year's budget. One suggestion was to purchase Garden Center gift cards for each neighborhood organization. Another suggestion was that each neighborhood could use this money as Sector matching funds for a NeighborGood grant. NeighborGood grants are available to east side sectors later on this year. The proposal is to have the larger neighborhoods (Swillburg, South Wedge, Upper Mt. Hope, Highland Park Neighborhood), each receive \$200 and the smaller neighborhoods (Lilac, May and Azalea) each receive \$150. A motion was made to divide the funds in this manner. The motion was seconded and passed.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY OCTOBER 13. It will be a long one.