

NBN Sector 6 Meeting
Monday June 9, 2007
NET Office 846 S. Clinton Avenue
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Present: Joanne Balliet, Gary Bogue, Elina Bravve, Abi Buddington, Barb Case, David Chappius, Lt. Frank Churnetski, Dave Halter, Rosa Hamlin, Joan Lindberg, Vern Lindberg, Ed Lindskoog, Geri Machado, Joe Machado, Rose O’Keefe, Sue O’Neil, Victoria Posner, Matt Perdue, Roger Ramsay, Allan Richards, Peter Saxe, Tony Sciarabba, Eileen Thomas, Paul Urai, John Waudby

Excused: Denise Lippa

Notes: Joan

Community Sharing

~ Joan Lindberg said that many southeast neighborhoods missed out on receiving plants for the **Rochester Blossoms Program**. The give-away was the same day as Clean Sweep. Joan will send neighborhood leader names and e-mail addresses to Stacey Estrich of the City Forestry Department. The next Rochester Blossoms plant give-away will be in September.

~ Joan gave an update on the June 27 City Hall meeting regarding the future of **City Reservoirs**. As of June 27, the Rochester Water Bureau plans to decommission both Highland and Cobbs Hill Reservoirs. Water storage tanks would replace both reservoirs. The tank at Highland would be 150’ in diameter and sunk 30’ deep into the ground. It would reside at the Summit of Highland Park, at the site of the former Children’s Pavilion. Both reservoirs would appear the way they do today. However, Water Bureau experts could not guarantee that Highland Reservoir would not develop algae bloom. Work on the Highland Reservoir tanks would be the very last phase of the \$40 million project, about 5 years into the future. The reservoir project is an unfunded federal mandate. Joan recommended reading the summary of the meeting in City Newspaper.

~ On June 13, PCIC hosted a **farewell to RPD Commander Pete Brunett**, supported by NBN6 funds. Thanks.

~ Adjustments to **property inventory reports** are due back to the Bureau of Assessment by August 1. Questions regarding property reassessment can be addressed to Robert Haygood at 428-6088 or haygoodd@cityofrochester.gov.

~ Geri Machado reported on a **retirement party for Commander Pete Brunett** at the Machado home on May Street. 43 people attended the buffet dinner including the commander’s wife and children.

~ **The May St. National Night Out Against Crime** will take place at the Machado residence on Tuesday August 7.

~ Sue O’Neil from **Azalea Neighborhood** announced that two of the **street planters** that were assembled after the Garden Factory field trip on May 14th “walked” away from the neighborhood. Azalea neighbors are still enjoying the two remaining planters that are located on Arbor St. They are secured into the ground with corkscrews.

~ Rose O’Keefe said that she has assembled 20 vendors for the **Regional History Fair**. She needs 40 vendors and she asked the group’s help in identifying additional vendors. The tentative date for the Regional History Fair is Monday, September 17 from 1 to 8 pm

at the German House. ... Rose also shared some personal news, good and bad. She was celebrating her birthday and she is battling lymphoma.

~ Eilleen Thomas announced that the South Wedge built a **new playground in Marie Daley Park**. It was a great process and a great experience. Eilleen thanked everyone involved in the effort, especially Pete Saxe.

~ Vern Lindberg said that another season of **Southeast Fall Classic Softball** will begin soon. Please visit www.sefcsoftball.com. The minimum age for players is 15. Someone asked about liability for injuries. David Chappius responded that because the fields are not sized for softball, the games are considered “pick-up” games. Southeast Fall Classic Softball is not a legal entity. There is no liability.

~ **Rosa Hamlin** introduced herself to NBN6. Rosa is a part-time clerk who comes to our NET from the 311 Center. Welcome Rosa!

~ Roger Ramsay said that the proposed **Highland Hospital Garage** was approved by the City’s Planning Commission over the objections of SWPC, SAVE and the Highland Park Neighborhood. Roger urged NBN6 to become more involved in the Highland Hospital Garage issue.

~ Roger said that **Highland Park Neighborhood** is working on its name change (formerly Ellwanger Barry) and on a new logo. The Highland Park Neighborhood will hold a potluck supper on September 15.

~ Elina Bravve said that **Planet Aid** is looking for a location within Sector 6 for a **collection box for used clothing**. The clothes are distributed in third world countries. The boxes must be located in a commercial area.

~ Joanne Balliet said that SEAC is hiring one more **Adopt-a-Block youth sweeper** for Monroe and S. Clinton Avenues. Youth work 5 days per week from 7 to 8:30 am, and earn \$8 / hour. Youth must be between the ages of 16 and 18.

~ Joanne said that SEAC gave away 500 of the 900 tickets they were given for the **Doobey Brothers Concert in Highland Bowl** on July 1. Total concert attendance was not known. The Mayor and the County Executive were very positive about the concert.

~ Gary Bogue announced a **Hickory Street pickup** at the end of July. Gary also shared news of a recent street fight.

~ Matt Perdue invited everyone to **Swillburg’s National Night Out Carnival** at Otto Henderberg Park on July 26. Come see the park’s new gazebo and the tiled light posts. Food and drink, inflated children’s entertainment, the Zoomobile, and Roscoe the Clown will all be there.

~ David Chappius spoke about **Swillburg’s Gazebo unveiling** on September 20th. **The RPO Brass Quintet** played, and 150 guests enjoyed free food and drink on a beautiful summer evening. The RPO Brass wants to perform at Otto Henderberg Park again next year. Thanks to Pete Saxe for suggesting the venue to the RPO. Salvatore’s Pizza supplied the food for the event. Salvatore’s thought that they were located in the South Wedge, but they now sport the Swillburg logo on their advertisements.

~ The latest issue of Swillburg’s New Porker was distributed.

NBN Sharing:

~ David said that our next **NBN contract is for \$5K**. The Community Foundation (formerly Rochester Area Community Foundation) is the fiduciary. Sectors may submit vouchers twice a month.

~ **NIP (Neighborhood Improvement Projects)** will be handled differently in the future. Instead of offering a sum of money and then having neighborhoods look for projects to get the money, the Bureau of Planning is asking for a list of projects and then the City will look for the money.

~ **Interns** are working this summer in the Bureau of Planning to help neighborhoods with the grant writing process and researching grants on-line.

~ David suggested that one sector-wide project might be **new street signs**, similar to the ones in the Swillburg and Lilac Neighborhoods. David offered to advise neighborhoods about the process of ordering the signs.

2. NET Update

~ **Pete Saxe** said that the U of R's Wilson Day will take place on September 1 this year. The U of R can provide 300 students to work in Sector 6. Please call Pete if your neighborhood can use volunteer workers.

~ NET Area D was the model for taking Zoning enforcement back into NET. Other NET offices are following our lead. This project is being expanded to other departments within City Hall. For example, Rene Cutt, a City Planner, will be in the NET Office from 9:30 to 11 am. In the future, the Department of Environmental Services, The Department of Community Development, Youth Services, and Economic Development plan to have office hours at NET.

~ Pete said that the City is working on legislation to regulate out-of-town homeowners / landlords. Pete will keep us informed as this legislation moves forward.

~ There will be no parking on the north side of Gregory St. from Ashland to South Ave.

~ An uplift will take place on Hamilton Street from South to Mt. Hope Avenues on 6-10.

~ Pete Saxe said that 911 is inundated with complaints about loud parties. Pete suggests that when you see a new neighbor, greet them and then talk about community expectations and standards.

~ **Lt. Frank Churnetski** said that Captain Mark Case is the temporary Commander of the East Side for 30 days. A permanent commander will be named in September.

~ Interviews for a NET Crime Prevention Officer will begin on Friday July 13.

~ Graffiti has become a plague in the southeast. A police car in the NET parking lot was tagged! Eileen Thomas said that there is a wall for graffiti artists, the "Legal Wall," behind Village Gate Square. Please call 428-5990 to report graffiti. Send digital pictures of graffiti to Frank so that the RPD can assess whether the tagging is gang-related.

~ Abi Buddington asked about lengthy response times to 911 calls. Frank responded that the caller may always ask to speak to a sergeant if the response time is lengthy. The RPD is not meeting the response goals that it set for itself. RPD special details, including walking beats, have caused response times to increase. Some walking beats are being curtailed to improve response times to 911 calls. The new computers in patrol calls no longer show the queue of 911 calls waiting.

~ Detailed crime information will be discussed at PCIC on 7-11.

3. Feedback regarding the Joint Sector 6 & 7 Meeting on 6/11

~ The power point presentation was too long and it repeated the handout. It did not have anything to do with the NBN Sector.

- ~ It is helpful to know what is going on in other sectors. Discussion groups with tables of six would be a better way to conduct a meeting.
- ~ Who was in charge of the meeting?
- ~ The meeting lacked focus.
- ~ What was the purpose of the meeting?
- ~ The best part of the meeting was when the sectors split up to conduct sector business.
- ~ It is interesting to see the difference between Sectors 6 & 7. There is a huge vacuum of knowledge about what is going on.
- ~ I learned about some things that were going on in Sector 7. That was cool.
- ~ Organize groups under one umbrella, a joint SEAC & SWPC.
- ~ Sector chairs should lead the meeting.
- ~ Perhaps a joint NBN meeting might be useful once a year.

4. BUDGET

David Chappius said that we have a new fiduciary, and a new budget of \$5K that coincides with the City's fiscal calendar (July 1 to June 30). Use the money within the time frame or lose it.

The budget comes from CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds. CDBG guidelines prohibit expenditures for the "maintenance" of projects.

The next NBN6 Five Year Plan will be formulated this year.

CDBG encourages expenditures that conserve energy. Therefore, the focus of the NBN6 budget for 2007-2008 will be GREEN. Joan Lindberg offered some green ideas and then asked the group to brainstorm sector projects.

Joan mentioned: www.H2Ohero.com, using restricted flow shower heads, water conservation, mulching, using soaker hoses, using solar lighting, fluorescent rather than incandescent lights, recycling of garden debris (like they do in Brighton), tree plantings in tree lawns – native tree species, xeriscaping (gardening with drought resistant plants).

The following are responses from the group:

- ~ The City has leaf compost that includes trash.
- ~ Shredded newspapers make good mulch. Avoid color glossy newsprint.
- ~ The SE Community Parade could have a green theme. Reach out to other communities.
- ~ Unplug cell phone chargers when not charging the phone to save energy.
- ~ Get compact fluorescent light bulbs for each street. Give a compact fluorescent light bulb in Welcome Baskets. Get a bulk price on light bulbs.
- ~ HSBC promotes "green" banking.
- ~ Check out the website dailytip@ideabite.com for energy saving tips.
- ~ The uplift process could include gift baskets with compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- ~ Centrally located mulch piles from the City give back program. The mulch could be double- or triple-ground. Monroe Country has good mulch.
- ~ Challenge neighborhood groups to cut back on printed newsletters to save paper. Use websites or e-mail to communicate instead.
- ~ NBN6 is in the process of setting up a website. Training for David and Joan should occur soon.
- ~ There is a reluctance to give up printed newsletters. Not everyone has a computer with internet access.

- ~ Use recycled paper for newsletters.
- ~ Buy in bulk. Have 6 newsletters use the same printer for a price reduction.
- ~ During National Night Out, distribute outdoor fluorescent light bulbs to every house on the street so people can illuminate their porches.
- ~ Placement of compact fluorescent light bulbs is an issue. To be really energy efficient, they must be kept on for a long time.
- ~ Lights are a crime deterrent.
- ~ Schedule a block party around daylight savings time.

Please keep thinking of projects the Sector can use to “go green.”

5. NBN6 Bylaws

Citywide, NBN leadership is studying (1) Bylaws and (2) Communication. Roger Ramsay is on the committee studying bylaws; David Chappius is on the communications team. Sector 6 bylaws are recognized as a model by the City. It would be wise to hold off our annual revision of bylaws until the NBN leadership has completed its study. Please visit our website at www.nbnsector6.org to look at the current bylaws.

6. State of the Sector

NBN6 obtained a NeighborGood Grant to hold a one-day conference called “The State of the Sector.” The event will take place in October. One part of the conference will include neighborhood training such as facilitating a meeting, setting up an e mail list, taking minutes, setting agendas, learning the role of neighborhood leader, and sharing “best practices” from each neighborhood. The second part of the conference will focus on land use within Sector 6, specifically the future of large parcels of unused land. The group would like to hear from:

- ~ Mr. Billone who owns the old Downtown Motor Lodge site on South and Byron.
- ~ The University of Rochester
- ~ Mr. Costello who owns the property called City Gate on Westfall Rd.
- ~ The Terrence Building (The old Psych Center) on Elmwood Ave.
- ~ Howard Konar who owns property on South Avenue
- ~ River Park Commons
- ~ Rental housing to college students
- ~ NYS

Pete Saxe suggested that NBN6 do an inventory of land within the sector to determine what is owned by whom.

Victoria Posner suggested that we research other cities the size of Rochester and see how they address land use.

David Chappius asked for suggestions regarding a guest speaker for this event.

The following people have volunteered to work on The State of the Sector: Joan Lindberg, David Chappius, Matt Perdue, Roger Ramsay, Pete Saxe, Victoria Posner, Sue O’Neil, and perhaps Denise Lippa.