

NBN6 Meeting January 12, 2009
Monroe County Parks Department Office
171 Reservoir Avenue

In attendance: Kate Alonzo, Joanne Balliet, Sue Bellinger, Bob Boyd, Allison Clark, David Chappius, Sarah Culligan, John Currier, Ruth Danis, Bill Gerling, Katrina Hansen, Vessy Jivkova, Chris Jones, Wendy Knapp, Alicia Lamphron, Geri Arno Machado, Matt McCarthy, Aaron McGowan, Jeannine Meilman, Nancy O'Donnell, Rose O'Keefe, John O'Neil, Sue O'Neil, Matt Perdue, Victoria Posner, Mark Quinn, Roger Ramsey, Lisa Reagan, Allan Richards, Christine Ridarsky, Tony Sciarabba, Larry Staub, Eilleen Thomas, Michael Tomb, Paul Urai, Carlene Woodward, Marcia Zach

Minutes: Chris Jones

Meeting Minutes:

Community Sharing & Information:

Matt Perdue, NBN Treasurer & ESCAPE Committee: The \$800,000 of multi-modal funds that were allotted for S. Clinton Ave improvements has been cut due to state's financial crisis. The future of the project is now uncertain. There is a chance the funding could be reinstated through federal infrastructure funding but it appears unlikely the funds will be coming from the state as originally planned.

Amendment: After the meeting, Matt had an opportunity to speak with a Representative from Assemblywoman Susan John's Office and also followed up on info with City Officials and Helen Hogan from SEAC. As of now, the project along South Clinton Avenue is still scheduled. We learned that the funding is currently in the Budget Review Office. No exact details though are available for when the funds may be released. Matt will update the group at future meetings.

Allan Richards, Susan John's Office: This has come as a surprise, the funds were obtained through Susan John. Many funds have been wiped back but the state will still honor contracts that have been signed. Susan indicated that it will be a tough budget year for everyone and we should not count on federal funds either. She will do what she can to see that the funds are reinstated.

Larry Staub, Monroe County Parks Dept: The Highland Park Ice Rink is now open! And by the weekend Ellison Park and Churchville rinks will also be open. The conservatory project is moving along nicely and the building should be open to the public again in April. A meeting was held with community leaders and event promoters regarding ticketed events at Highland Bowl; and the county will be going before the legislature to renew permit for up to 5 concerts to be held in the Parks (Highland) and RibFest will also be recurring this year.

Roger Ramsey, HPNA: There was a long term planning meeting for the Highland Park Neighborhood Association in which their 12-month plan was created, in a 4 hour meeting held last Saturday.

Wendy Knapp, Rockingham (East of Goodman) Block club has been created.

Ruth Danis, HPNA: The Highland Park Neighborhood Association will be holding a History Dialog (Focus on Community) event on February 24th from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM. The event will include oral histories and written information about the park district. Details are posted on the website www.highlandparkrochester.com or contact michaelino@gmail.com for more information.

Kate Alonzo, Rochester Public Library, Highland Branch: Learn English classes are forming for anyone who wants help learning the English Language. Classes will be held every Wednesday 11 AM to 1 PM. For more information call 428-8206. Also, Story Times for babies, two yr olds, and 3 to 5 yr olds will start January 20th and run through February. Registration is required, for info or to register call Alexandra at 428-8227.

Geri Machado, May Street Block Club: Their annual Christmas Party was a success with 70 people attending.

Sue O'Neil, Azalea Neighbors: The latest Azalea newsletter is now out.

Michael Tomb, HPNA: A 2009 calendar featuring Ellwanger and Barry history is now available for sale.

Mark Quinn, Monroe County Parks Department: The Highland ice rink is lighted and has a warming shed, come skate til 10:00 PM.

Carleen Woodward, HPNA, NBN: Kudos to BASWA for a well-planned and executed "Swing in the New Year" event at the German House, it was a lot of fun and the place looked beautiful. Recommends anyone who hasn't attended in the past should go next year.

Chris Jones, BASWA, SWPC: "Swing in the New Year" was a success despite bad weather. Also, BASWA is commissioning 8 more Parking Meter Totems for the South Wedge area. BASWA also had a successful "Mistletoe Mingle" pub crawl and a nice turnout for the "Solstice Stew" with Buddahood held at Boulder Coffee.

Bob Boyd, Exec. Director SWPC: The low-rise at River Park Commons is now vacant, demolition of the buildings is expected to commence this spring. Also, this year marks the 30th Anniversary of The Wedge newspaper.

Matt McCarthy, City of Rochester Community Development: The NBN Sector 6 Action Plan will be done soon. A draft copy is now available which will be distributed for

review at this meeting. By next month a hard copy will be available and pdf will be on the NBN website.

David Chappius, NBN & Swillburg Neighborhood Association: The Swillburg planning meeting was held and they have completed their 12 month plan. They will be holding Swillfest again this year but will hopefully be joining forces with HPNA so the event will not be called Swillfest. The tentative date for the event is Friday March 13th.

South Avenue Rec Center: They will be holding a Valentine's Dance at the Rec Center, date is not known. Call Rec Center for details.

Agenda Items:

I. Pete Saxe, Neighborhood Service Center Administrator:

There will be four Clean Sweeps this spring. Dates scheduled are April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16. A poll of those present indicated that Sector 6 would prefer May 2nd to be the date for our area in light of the Lilac Festival being held May 8th through May 17th. Also, the city's 175th Anniversary celebration is this year and logos are available along with other resources as well, please call the Communications Office at 428-7405 for details. Also, snow removal – if you are having problems getting snow removed on your street please call 311 first, if that is not successful then call Pete's office at 428-7640.

II. Rochester Police Department:

Commercial burglaries in the neighborhood were on the rise in December. It is not clear where the burglaries occurred, although there was one at Alice's Market on South Ave near Elmwood. This involved juveniles, arrests have been made. There were also several car larcenies and break-ins on Mt. Hope that have also been cleared; a purse snatching that was cleared; a gun arrest on S. Clinton in which cash and drugs were found in this individuals home; a robbery at the Hospital, and a stabbing on Mt. Hope.

The officer was queried on whether PCIC notes will be emailed out as they have been in the past. The response is that the Commander does not wish these notes to be sent out in email blasts, reasons are unclear.

III. Christine Ridarsky, City Historian:

The City of Rochester is celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the signing of the city's charter this year. She has many projects planned. The city is eager to tie the anniversary in to any neighborhood events. Her projects include updating the city's website in relation to the history information available on it. She wants to highlight different city neighborhoods and needs help with this project. Some of the specifics of what she wants to do:

- ❖ Online exhibits of each city neighborhoods, highlighting what makes each neighborhood unique.
- ❖ Encourage each neighborhood to form a history committee.
- ❖ Oral history interviews, she is seeking people for this.
- ❖ Either an overall history of Sector 6 or more specialized histories of each neighborhood within Sector 6.
- ❖ She is looking for volunteers to help with these goals.
- ❖ The city celebrations will occur around April 28th to celebrate the charter being signed.

Anyone interested should contact Christine at 428-8095 or Christine.ridarsky@libraryweb.org

IV. Eilleen Thomas, South Wedge Planning Committee:

ABVI is celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year, and they are expanding and redesigning their facility on S. Clinton. They are expanding and consolidating the 211 Call Centers that are now run out of multiple buildings, into one building. They are also enlarging the ABVI Goodwill Store on S. Clinton. Phase 1 of the project is scheduled to start this spring. For details about the project contact Eilleen at 256-1740 or ethomas@swpc.org

V. David Chappius, NBN Chair:

NBN Officers positions expired in December, all offices in the executive committee are up for renewal. After several calls for volunteers in which no one expressed serious interest in assuming the positions, the following was decided:

Chair: David Chappius will remain chair until December 2009, at which time he is stepping down.

Vice Chair: Carleen Woodward

Treasurer: Matt Perdue will continue in his role until December 2009.

Secretary: This position will be tried out in February to see how it fits.

Food Committee: Victoria Posner and Rose O'Keefe are now the food committee. They have permission to spend up to \$100 per month on food and they will work with treasurer Matt Perdue on details.

Questions & Comments:

- ~ What's going on with the site of the Downtown Motor Lodge? The site was purchased by John Billone who is working on a new proposal for it at this time.
- ~ What about the original proposal he introduced? That plan is off the table now.
- ~ When is the next meeting? Monday February 9th.