

Facilitator John Meyer

Attendees: Pat Body, Gerry Scott, Joe Carni, Nora Spillane, Owen Kerney, Katie Scott, Ben Walsh, Captain Richard Shoff, Andrea Wandusee, Edward Ott, Sarah McIlvain, Brandy Colebrook, Joe Tangueli, Cassie Hammond, Gayle Sonderlin, Mike LeFlair, Joe Nicoletti

Issues for City Departments: Captain Shoff: Cougars on Butternut Street has had a couple of shootings. It is getting a lot of attention. It has to have 3 arrests to qualify for the nuisance abatement ordinance.

Q. Do we have a problem with the nuisance abatement law if the arrest is made two houses down and not on the actual location? **A.** No, if the arrest is associated with the property it counts.

Q. Between Townsend and State Street people feel uncomfortable walking down to work.

A. The owner has hired security, making 6 pages worth of arrests, it's getting better but it takes time.

Joe Carni and Mike LeFlair had met with Ken Towsley with codes to address issues like this. The Police are working with the Landlord to try and find a way to address this issue.

Presentation: *Rezone, mixed uses & business corridors*, Owen Kerney & Nora Spillane

Rezone is an update on the City's land use law in the City of Syracuse. Mixed Use Zoning districts will promote a variety of new business types. Bottom of Butternut street will remain Commercial zoning district. The northern part of Butternut is a zoning district that is largely residential and will maintain the residential character but will be changed to reflect a light mix of uses (MX-1 zoning district: Personal services, home businesses NO retail of any sort can move into an MX-1 zone). Business corridors on James and Salina will remain mixed use. Areas around the hospital, Washington Square will see some changes. Lodi will be changed to have light mixed uses (MX-1) as well as residential.

Q. What happens when two buildings next door get burnt down and what if someone wants to build a new corner store?

A. The design standards that we are developing with MX-1 will make sure the new development adheres to the residential characteristics. Things like corner stores will be regulated by the size, etc. that are stipulated in the zoning standards.

Q. Councilmember Joe Nicoletti stated that he respectfully disagrees with the new MX-1 expansion. There is no need for new businesses on Lodi, there need to be 1 -2 family residential units. There needs to be an assurance that neighborhood corner stores won't pop up all along the street. 1313 Butternut St, complaints have been made by many over the years. Northside wants to restore the neighborhood feeling and housing stock. Councilmember Joe Carni stated that there is a real fear and concern here in the neighborhoods and the fringe neighborhoods like Hawley Green; if you loosen things up a bit it might open the door for more corner stores. It is very difficult right now in the state to use language that prohibits corner stores.

A. It sounds like your primary focus is on Butternut. Residential area will be maintained. Administrative process and ordinance is the response to where these corner stores can go, you will have to adhere to design standards you must adhere to. This is a project reacting to solve this problem; keeping things strictly residential over the last 30 years hasn't worked. Zoning is about strengthening our neighborhoods. If we just make this strictly residential, is it more palatable to have home office and personal services? Nora Spillane encouraged everyone to look at the table of uses for the new mixed uses.

Q. You have to have opportunity; we won't get an influx of yuppies for these new mixed uses. New Americans will need jobs that they can walk to. When you rezoned, you favored the inner harbor over the Northside. There should just be industrial near regional market towards Wolf St.

A. There is a range of uses in Mixed Uses. Much of Wolf Street is currently zoned residential. The future of that is probably not residential. The new zoning will reflect a greater use of business types. MX-3 and MX-4 allow for light industrial uses, which is what the area will be changed to. There is a completely new revamping of the zoning ordinance, not just the map. The inner harbor is mixed uses. If I am hearing you correctly, both Wolf and Hiawatha should be industrial? Look at the definition of industrial and the different mixed uses, they could be the same as what you are suggesting.

Ben Walsh commented that much of what we envision being conducive to jobs and industry, probably isn't straight up zoned industrial because it is so close to residential areas and the noise and pollution would affect quality of life.

Q. There are a group of people working well with new Americans, trying to buy up properties and make them good housing for them. If you make that area mixed use, people are taking advantage of people over here. Codes isn't able to do their job. You open this up it will hurt the area more. We need good housing not more corner stores. Do things that are already zoned for businesses, don't create more opportunities to for people to take advantage of others. Councilmember Joe Carni stated that we have dwindling population, we just seem to be moving people around. The way things are zoned, if you allow more of this mixed uses it could potentially allow for the stores that do not benefit the neighborhood.

Nora Spillane stated the possibility you create for people, could allow for them to create businesses. Retail of any kind is not allowed in MX-1, which would eliminate the possibility of corner stores popping up in these areas.

Owen Kerney stated that the neighborhoods that have less of the issues the Northside has, are strengthened by their core business district.

Councilmember Joe Nicoletti stated that No one is against business; we just need to protect and improve the housing in the Northeast quadrant. We are repeating what happened in other sections (like the near west side), let's not repeat it.

Special Project Update

5 plaques were purchased through the sector special project funding. They will be placed on TNT projects: 3 trash cans, the new Court Woodlawn sign, and one location TBD.

Update from City-Wide TNT Board

John Meyer announced that on July 1, Pat Body is the new Chair of TNT City-wide board. Pat Body will begin making policy to hand out to the public so everyone can understand what is done at the Board level. TNT is now a 501 c3 and can raise funds or apply for grants. At the next board meeting we will be discussing how many committees are necessary and will be inviting people to become members. When the board was formed, it was decided that each sector would advocate for each other to lift the entire city up together. Moving forward, we will be more open and transparent to work together to build the city. Pat will keep everyone informed as to what the Board is working on. If you have any ideas on how to increase participation, please contact your Facilitators. There are currently only 3 facilitators; there can be up to 7. You must live, work or own property on the Northside to qualify.

Announcements

- 2nd Annual Fourth of July parade at Schiller park 9:30am – 11am. Patriotic music starts at 10am
- July 29th Magnarrelis will have a recycling event at Destiny USA. Half the proceeds will go to Interfaith Works and the other half to the Butternut Community Police Center. 9:30am – 2pm. Volunteers are needed.
- Syracuse Refugee Agriculture Program, 3 year grant. New Americans have helped start the 120 Seward Street garden. There will be an additional lot purchased through the Landbank and then a third one in Kirkville.
- Open Hand Theater sold the castle, they have moved to Dewitt but are still working on the Northside; at Salem High and CYO. They just received a grant to move into a Community Center.
- Washington Square Task Force will host a Meet the Candidates night on September 5th at West Minister Presbyterian Church on the corner of Turtle and Park Street. Looking for volunteer to help facilitate the questions. Doors open at 6:30pm.

No July or August Meeting.