

Welcome and Introductions: Residents, and City Departments

Approval of March minutes: Motion by Jeff Wright, seconded by Chuck Taylor and Marilyn Madison, motion carried.

SPD Capt. DelFavaro distributed a flyer to help residents report suspicious activities and gave information on the SPD map showing activity in the Valley during the past month (copper theft from foreclosure at 4914 S. Salina and a domestic incident where paperwork was taken from a home on Weymouth Road. There were two business incidents (Papa's had cash taken, suspects were trailed by footprints, a second business had a burglary attempt). Rick Baldwin (Orlando Ave) had questions on crime in his area.

Presentations:

- Kevin Schaub spoke about the Consensus report being shared throughout the county. Goals are for #1 Better government, #2 Growth, and #3 Equitable Representation. The report recommends a new structure. Redundant services are at \$100M and consolidation could save \$40M or \$200 per household. Syracuse ranks first in the USA in Black and Brown poverty and 23rd in overall poverty. Onondaga County is below the national average and falling. Consensus' first report is approximately 160 pages with 51 recommendations. The baseline report includes 50 options. Consensus is recommending creation of a new Metro government. The full report will be released to the community later in the Spring. Layers of government include 57 fire departments, 14 police departments, 15 villages, and 19 towns. School districts were not a part of the assessment. Costs can be reduced by sharing purchasing and training agreements, a "quantity discount" similar to Costco or Sam's Club. Areas for savings would be technology- common software adoption (hardware/software), shared maintenance of assets and infrastructure, creation of coordinated metro services (DPW, plows). Our 911 office was created in the 1990's and merged emergency services in the villages, towns and the city, saving lives as well as dollars. Other examples are OCRRA, Onondaga County Public Library System and Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Report is available online and comments are being received until May 1, 2016.
- Phil Rose, from the Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods Coalition spoke about the Social Host proposal coming before the Common Council. He will return to do a full presentation.

Committee Reports –

- Parks and Beautification – Funding for the artwork sign was already approved, but perhaps should be moved to cover other expenses and be approved again from next year's funding (\$1000) if it's not spent by May 15 of this year. Prices for trash cans and benches were discussed. Motion to fund trash cans at Florence and another near St. James/Syracuse Academy of Science as well as a bench at St. James. Motion by George Matthews, seconded by Jim Macallair, motion carried.
- Public Safety & Planning – Kathy Stribley spoke about Palladin Park having been approved by the Town of Onondaga. It may be a done deal.

Updates:

- Sue Boyle, Common Council, spoke about several city development issues. Family Dollar will be opening a store at the old NAPA site on Ballantyne at South Salina. The Dunkin' Donuts project will be relocated to the former Tim Hortons property. She has seen no new plans submitted now for the Mobil property.
- Syracuse University students announced that the Placemaking Project timeframe has been extended to 5/1/16. It is being done at the Clary bridge. Donations have been slow coming in. Photographs will also be accepted for the collection of mementoes which will be installed as a mosaic between the bridge beams. Donations won't be returned, and can be dropped off at Cecile Center & Betts Branch.

Announcements:

- Betts Branch Library –April 10th to April 16th is National Library Week. Meditation classes for beginners on Saturdays. Yoga class at 6:00 p.m. Upcoming event –“Blind Date with a Book”
- Meachem Area Parks Association meets next Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Cecile Center and Earth Day Clean-up is scheduled for the following Saturday, April 23rd and teams will be working out of the Cecil Center from 9:00 a.m. to noon.
- Corcoran’s Earth Day event will be at the school, from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Friday, April 22nd, 2016.
- Valley Sports Association Mother’s Day Plant Sale starts May 4th and runs until May 8th at Meachem Field.
- Webster Pond Neighborhood Watch meeting April 14th at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Wright, seconded by Jim Macallair, and motion carried.

Next Valley TNT meeting is scheduled to be held on May 11, 2016 at the Cecile Center at 7:00 p.m.