

MINUTES: *Facilitator* Marilyn Madison

Attendees: Jeff Wright, Councilmembers Sue Boyle, Chol Majok, Ryan McMahon, Juanita Perez-Williams, Mary Beth Roach, Stephen Harris, Harold Johnson, Ethel L. Johnson, George Matthews, Carl Sharak, Kathy Stribley, Pat Hagemann, Rita Broton, Dee Klees, Carolyn Stafford, Bob Dougherty, Susan Reckhow, Tina Giblin, Caroline West, Elizabeth McCabe, Bill Kinne, Ann K.U. Tussing, Russ Houck, Rich Sowczak, Susan Mitchell, Dawn Marmor, 11 others who did not sign in

Review of the February 8th 2017 Minutes: Correction under Committee Reports: Correction on the name of the park: Pallidin Park. All were in favor to accept the minutes with the correction.

Issues for City Department Officials :

- 1) 2/27 at 1522 Valley Drive. Burglary of a vacant house; Copper was stolen.
- 2) 3/7 at 1000 Ballantyne Rd. Criminal mischief to a vehicle; broken windshield.
- 3) 2/28 at 100 Cordova St. Burglar: unlocked front door; electronics stolen.
- 4) 2/15-2/18 at 100 Monticello Drive. Forced entry into a basement. Nothing was stolen.
- 5) 2/13 at 200 Seneca Drive. Burglar: forced front door open; electronics stolen. Suspect identified as the father.
- 6) Shots fired near wooded area off Lynn Circle. Probably target practice, still illegal activity in this area.
- 7) 2/16 at 300 Milburne Drive. Daytime Burglary, ransacked property. Suspect is the ex-girlfriend.
- 8) 2/17 at 300 Ferndale St. Burglary, no suspect info.
- 9) 2/28 on Salina St. near Florence, juveniles broke windows. No arrests.
- 10) 3600 block on Midland Ave, broken window.
- 11) Syracuse Police Department has openings for Crossing Guards. Please call the SPD if interested.

Ryan McMahon, County Legislature

Mr. McMahon updated the group on the Consensus Report. The report will not be ready for vote as the recommendations were given without clear details on allocating responsibilities within the new government. A Legislative subcommittee has been formed, consisting of various individuals such as Bill Kinne, Councilmembers Helen Hudson and Sue Boyle, as well as others. Mr. McMahon also informed the members that the County has allocated money to the Landbank, which is coming back into the community in various ways.

Q. Has there been any preparation in making sure the community has dialogue around the Consensus?

A. Legislatures will be going around and having mini-town hall meetings. City and County merger didn't quite address the towns. They will be highlighting examples of how a merger works well, such as with the public library system.

Q. Will this plan be presented to Cuomo?

A. Cuomo's plan probably won't pass Albany.

Q. One issue was that the Consensus report left out schools. How could they develop a plan without including schools?

A. Property tax savings driven by state mandates. School resources could get leveraged.

Q. What happens with city police?

A. There was a concept to merge the SPD with the Sheriff Road Patrol, not sure if this would improve efficiencies and it probably would not save any money.

If you have any questions, call Ryan McMahon at the Legislature.

Committee Reports

Beautification Committee: Kathy Stribley

There is an issue with the new green area on Walwrath and Salina St., there needs to be a barrier as cars could hit the 'Welcome to the Valley' Sign

Planning Committee: Kathy Stribley

Last Monday, Brighton Mews had their hearing in which a new drain and storm water plan was presented. There is still an issue with the Crosswalk, as it was taken out of the plan at Seneca Turnpike and Brighton without it being put back in. The plan was approved that evening. The Family Dollar development is proceeding, the giant Sycamore tree is still there and looking good. The opening should be sometime this Spring. There is the possibility for a development at the old mobile, as an auction was taking place on site.

Presentations:

Bett's Branch Library: Susan Reckhow, Dawn Marmor and Susan Mitchell, Executive Director of the Onondaga County Public Library

The plans for the library have not changed since last Spring. The library still plans on creating a teen space separate from the adult space and kids space. The construction will take place either now or at the beginning of Fall, as the Library would like to remain open during the summer when they have the most programming occurring. There is almost a completely new full time staff at Betts as a number of librarians have retired. On March 16th the library will have new doors! Also, on March 9th, the Library is offering a program on How to Start a Vegetable Garden for anyone interested in attending.

Seneca Turnpike Project: Russ Houck, City Engineer. Stephen Harris, City Arborist. Rich Sowczak, NYSDOT. The project will begin later this month or in early April, with notices sent out before it begins. The total time for the project is estimated between 4 and 6 months. The project will stretch from the bottom of Seneca Place up to Seneca Drive. Areas of improvement include: street-scaping, pedestrian crosswalk improvements, mill & pave the road, new curbs, continuous sidewalks on both sides. There will not be any additional lanes, but there will be a narrowing of some portions of the road to help with pedestrian crossing. There are no planned detours and the crews are working to keep at least one lane open during construction. There will be electronic notification on both ends of the project as well as notification through various media outlets.

Q. Will the work go up to the corner of Seneca Drive and Seneca Turnpike?

A. It will not make it up to that point, just shortly before it.

Q. How will this improve the flow of traffic?

A. This is a very busy street, and you probably won't see any major traffic changes. It will aesthetically look better and also improve pedestrian travel.

Q. What trees are being put in, natives?

A. Yellow wood, mostly native but not exclusively.

Q. Heading west on Seneca Turnpike, the turn lanes at Seneca turnpike and Midland and Valley, are you expanding those?

A. Yes, slightly longer for the turning lanes. Not sure on the exact dimensions

Q. If there is enough money left over, will there be sidewalk replacement at Munson?

A. Right now, that portion is not included in the project, it would need DOT approval.

Q. There are issues with water coming down the ADA ramp between Munson and Bobs True Value (Salina and Seneca St) on the Southside of the Turnpike.

A. This is outside the scope of the project, but will be looked into.

Q. There is a situation on Seneca Turnpike between Monticello and Seneca Drive. Dekatherm poured concrete over a green space. Pete O'Connor with DPW was informed, but there has been no response.

A. Councilmember Sue Boyle stated that the same thing happened in front of her house in Strathmore. DPW has communicated to her that these temporary patchwork issues will be addressed in the Spring.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Ocesa Keaton, Coordinator 315-448-8781 OKeaton@syr.gov.net

This is a Civil Rights Law established in 1990. Ocesa is undergoing a Transition Plan Process and is currently in Phase one of the plan; a self-evaluation assessment of all City of Syracuse programs and services to identify all architectural barriers in their facilities. (ex. City Parks, Senior Centers, Public Meetings)

Q. Do you have any say in Crosswalks?

A. Yes, there was an SU classroom that completed a GIS mapping of all City Crosswalks that did not meet ADA standards. This will be continuing for the students in their second semester.

Q. Traffic lights at Salina and Seneca Turnpike are difficult to cross if you are in a wheelchair. It is a timing issue.

Russel Houck, City Engineer, commented that the Seneca Turnpike project will address some of these issues, as the pedestrian cross walks will be improved. It is unclear if the new crosswalks will include an audible count down timer.

School Updates: Councilmember Sue Boyle

The Syracuse City School Board has officially voted in Jaime Alicea as Superintendent of the SCSD! Disaster the Musical will take place at Corcoran High School on March 17/18 at 7pm. The Council will be voting on the Meachem sign on Monday.

TNT City-Wide Updates:

Caroline West stated that TNT is now a 501c3, and no longer needs to utilize Home Headquarters as a fiscal sponsor. TNT is now able to work directly with the city. Next week, the council will be voting on a new contract between TNT and the city. Also, TNT is registered as a charity with Albany and can now receive money from grants. Carl Sharak, TNT City-wide Treasurer stated that TNT currently does not have an account to put the grant money in, and may need some additional time to establish the mechanism to accept grant money.

Tina Zagya reminded the group of the TNT City-wide Strategic Planning will take place on Thursday March 30th, Thursday April 27th and Wednesday May 31st from 5:30 to 7:30pm. It was announced that the meetings will take place at the Gifford Foundation 126 N. Salina st, please RSVP so that enough food is ordered for everyone.

Announcements

- 1) George Matthews stated that MAPA meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm at the Cecil Center. April 22nd is their cleanup, please let MAPA know which businesses keep their areas clean so that they can thank them for their good work.
- 2) Caroline West reminded the group of the Webster Pond Fishing program, starting on the First Saturday in April for youths, the first Sunday in April for adults. Applications will be placed within schools.
- 3) Webster Pond Neighborhood Watch meeting, Thursday March 9th at St. Pauls
- 4) Through SUNY ESF, the Center for Community Design Research has established a speaker series for host neighborhoods within the city entitled, *Visioning Voices*. The second series will be taking place on March 21st at Assumption Church on the Northside. Eastwood has been selected for the third Visioning Voices Speaker Series.
- 5) George Matthews informed the group that the Parks Department will be installing a mini-exercise room upstairs in the Cecil center to improve Senior flexibility.
- 6) Juanita Perez Williams announced to the group that she will be running for Mayor of Syracuse.
- 7) Faith Heritage will be putting on Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat on March 10th and 11th.
- 8) Our Lady of Lourdes Church is having their 32nd annual Fabulous Fish Dinner. March 3rd until the Friday before Good Friday. 4pm – 6:30pm Eat in or take out. This might be their last year.