

**MINUTES: Facilitator** Jeff Wright

**Attendees:** Carl Sharak, George Matthews, Dee Klees, Ann K.U. Tussing, Russ Houck, Caroline West, Rita Broton, Harold Johnson, Ethel Johnson, Pat Hagemann, Judy Farrell, Kathy Stribley, Jim Macallair, Cassie Hammond, Laura Levine, Susan Boyle, Jim Stelty, Captain Keith Muhammad, Cali Khakoo, Officer Joe Evans

**Review of the April 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 Minutes:** Correction to issues #4, Kids were wearing Clary colors. George Matthews motioned to accept the minutes with the correction, Carl Sharak 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Issues for City Department Officials**

- 1) Domestic assault between father and daughter on Riverdale Drive. Daughter was arrested.
- 2) May 8<sup>th</sup> burglary on Valley Drive, forced rear window, no suspect.
- 3) Criminal mischief to a vehicle, tire puncture with no suspect
- 4) Ballantyne Gardens Apartment stabbing, victim was gang member
- 5) Criminal mischief to a vehicle on Seneca Drive, front window smashed
- 6) Criminal mischief, Clary students were throwing rocks as a car, kids were identified through witness camera pictures, arrests were made
- 7) Latter Terrace burglary, vacant house suspect broke in through front door and stole copper
- 8) Valley cemetery maintenance garage broken into, garden tools stolen.
- 9) A resident stated that while driving towards 481, kids were seen on 4-wheelers coming down from Rock Cut Rd. Police have caught them before coming off railroad tracks, there must be a path up over Rock Cut Rd near the old dump.
- 10) A resident stated that a kid came down W. Seneca Turnpike Hill towards the hospital doing about 95. Is it possible to place rumble strips on the road? Hon. Sue Boyle stated that she had spoken with Joe Romano with Assemblyman Magnarelli's office and that they are looking into adding a speed bump.

**City Issues:**

- 1) Hon. Sue Boyle is in conversation with National Grid in regards to the destruction from the Dekatherm contractor. Please contact Ms. Boyle with any addresses that need to be fixed. [SBoyle@syrgov.net](mailto:SBoyle@syrgov.net) 315-727-5198 or find her on Facebook or Twitter
- 2) Council member Sue Boyle offered condolences to the Fireman who passed away recently.
- 3) Hon. Boyle explained the recent City Budget issues. The Landbank was not funded the 1.5 million it requested from the City, as the original understanding was that the City would support The Landbank for 3 years at 1.5 million, it has been 4 years with City support. Last year The Landbank generated 1.8 million in sales and receives 2.2 million from the state budget. The new Mayor coming into office will have funds to operate for 2 years. The City has numerous violations it can collect on, which would bring in more streams of income. The community wants more Police. Last year the Fire Department was not at full staff and had overtime expenses. This year they carried over the same amount of overtime with full staff, so 1.5 million was moved to the Police department. 1 million of the Police budget was taken out and put towards new Officer training. The City did not cut funding to Say Yes, the Mayor budgeted 1 million and the City School District found the additional \$500,000 it needs. The Literacy Coalition was also added back into the budget.

**Q.** Is there funding for TNT? **A.** Yes, it stayed the same.

**Q.** The Landbank was funded for 3 years, what was supposed to happen after?

**A.** The Landbank was supposed to become self-sustaining, the City sells the Landbank houses for \$1. They made 1.8 million last year and are looking for a consistent stream of income.

**Committee Reports:**

**Planning Committee:** The Family Dollar on Ballantyne & Salina is close to being finished. There is enough room for plantings.

**Parks Committee-** George Matthews asked residents to complete a Parks Survey which was given at the meeting

**Presentations: Cali Khakoo**

'Salt City Mapping' is funded by a 2 year grant to find a better platform for citizen engagement. This is a mobile/desktop platform that allows citizens to submit data on suspected zombie houses or houses with multiple code violations. There

will be 3 logins for each TNT that can be used by multiple individuals. The data can be pulled for each TNT sector; this info will be put into the city system for code enforcement, grassroots planning as well as better data driven investments.

**Q.** Once you have all this data, will you prioritize which properties you address?

**A.** Yes, if the same house is surveyed by 10 neighbors, then the City will know that the neighbors care about this issue.

**Q.** Will this play into the City's Open Data Policy? **A.** Yes

**Q.** The fire department keeps a list of vacant properties; will you be frontloading with that info?

**A.** Yes we have some of that info, but in some neighborhoods, some properties go unnoticed because a neighbor mows the lawn and shovels the snow.

**Q.** If someone is paying taxes on the vacant property, this is a moot point right?

**A.** Not necessarily, there are about 900 zombie properties – could be tax current but there might be a judgement or its in the foreclosure process.

**Hon.** Sue Boyle mentioned that the Common Council has just approved additional funding for code enforcement on these tax current properties. They can be cited for violations, the City can charge them for any work done on the violations.

This idea is to increase their tax bill and catch their attention to the property.

**Q.** Once reported, does one receive feedback as to the outcome?

**A.** The whole data set will be available through the Open Data Policy; you can also receive updates if you want.

**Q.** How do we use the system? **A.** In mid-June there will be a couple training sessions on how to use the survey tool.

**Q.** Do you know how many zombie properties are in the Valley? **A.** No, but we can find out.

**Q.** Will this be a better database; is this part of another process? Is there more than just making a list?

**A.** It is a new initiative, for the state grant, we invest time to identify zombie properties. After the data is collected, we will submit those records to the Department of Financial Services to put some stress on the big banks.

**Q.** Is it true that the main reason these properties are created is because partial taxes are paid?

**A.** All 900 suspected zombie houses are tax current.

**Seneca Turnpike Updates:** Russ Houck, *City Engineer*. Project underway for 4 weeks as of May 12, 2017

Work has primarily been from Hopper Road east to Academy Green, on the south side of Seneca Turnpike. Work completed: curb removal and reset, sidewalk grading, drainage structure installation, replacement of 4 fire hydrants, Pedestrian signal pole installation, Signal interconnect conduit laid.

- Sidewalk will start to be poured on Thursday May 11 and driveways restored, Curb and sidewalk work for 1-2 more weeks on the south side. After that, similar work will start on the north side of Seneca turnpike (Seneca Place to Creek) and take approximately 4 weeks. Work to start on the east side of Onondaga Creek Bridge roughly at the end of June/beginning of July.

**Q.** Will they be doing work on holidays/weekends? **A.** No weekends, 7am – 5pm.

**Q.** When the lane goes down to one, are there plans to fill holes on the road? Will there be additional drainage?

**A.** It will be milled and paved mostly; the drainage will be replaced at the bottom of the hill.

**Q.** Will National Grid be allowed to re-dig after construction? **A.** There is a 5 year moratorium on new road excavation.

### **TNT City-Wide Updates:**

Caroline West stated that there will be one more TNT City-wide Strategic Planning, on Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup> from 5 to 7:30pm. Dinner will be served from 5 – 5:30pm. The meeting will address the direction TNT will take. The Mayor put TNT in the budget for \$80,000 and TNT will now be getting the funding directly from the City. Please RSVP so that enough food is ordered for everyone by emailing TNTStrategicplanning@gmail.com.

### **Announcements**

1) George Matthews stated that MAPA meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6pm at the Cecil Center. MAPA sponsored a cleanup for June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. On May 29<sup>th</sup> MAPA will be putting flags along the turnpike.

2) Caroline West stated that there is a Flower Sale across the street until Sunday. CNY Cat Coalition at St. Paul's United Methodist Church will have a sale on Friday and Saturday to raise money for spading and neutering cats. Tomorrow at 7pm at St. Paul's Church there will be a Webster Pond meeting upstairs. Sunday morning at the Legion there will be a Mother's Day breakfast. Webster Pond is looking for volunteers to hike through trails on June 28<sup>th</sup>; there have been domestic geese that are coming up missing. It is suspected to either be a coyote or homeless people.

Caroline West motioned to adjourn at 8:05pm, Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>.