

**MINUTES: Facilitator** Tina Giblin

**Attendees:** Carl Sharak, Marilyn Madison, Judy Farrell, Stephanie Pasquale, Captain DelFavero, Ann K.U. Tussing, Ben Walsh, Hon. Sue Boyle, Ryan McMahon, Captain Keith Muhammad, Caroline West, George Matthews, Ethel Johnson, Joan M. Hanlin, Rita Burton, Bob Dougherty, Chol Majok, Dee Klees

**Review of the May 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 Minutes:** Carl Motioned to approved the minutes, Marilyn 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved.

**Issues for City Department Officials**

6 burglaries in the Valley; Captain DelFavero recommended that residents put air conditioners in top floor windows to prevent break-ins or ensure that you screw them into your window frame. May 19<sup>th</sup> at 5am there was an attempted burglary at the Mobile Station. There was a commercial burglary at Valley cemetery on June 5<sup>th</sup> it was called in at 7am; forced in front door of maintenance garage. There were prior incidents in April, the 2 people responsible for that burglary are still in jail. Shots fired on 6/11 at 2:09am on the 100 block of Maxwell Ave. A 2015 Jeep patriot and a 2009 smart car were shot, 23 9mm casings were found. One young man in area is associated with Uptown gang, might be a possible connection. Homicide: victim Rashied Baker was in his vehicle when he was approached and shot; Police are still trying to piece things together. Chol Majok stated that Mr. Baker was a good kid and a friend. The only way to reduce things like this is not to turn side-ways. It never hits you hard until it happens to someone close to you. Hopefully officers can bring justice to this.

**City Issues:****Captain Keith Muhammad Syracuse Fire Department (Fire Prevention):**

Q: Will you be doing events where you hand out free smoke detectors?

A. There will be events in schools where people can sign up & the fire department will install them for you.

Q If there is an unoccupied house with a pool, will the fire department drain it? 112 Academy Green

A. Call code enforcement

**Common Council Member Sue Boyle:** Thanks to Senator Valesky's office for support: a Purchase Order has been placed for a new electronic Meachem sign. Corocoran graduation is next weekend. There will be Summer youth jobs in the Parks department.

Q. Since the last sign failed, can we privately get an insurance policy for it?

A. There will be follow up to look at the fine print to make sure there is an insurance policy.

A resident noticed that on the corner of Seneca and Valley Drive, the sidewalks don't line up (Rite aid to the Chinese place). Russ Houck, the city engineer, has been contacted.

**County Representative Ryan McMahon:** A speed reader has been placed down the hill on Seneca Turnpike. It flashes if you go more than 30 mph.

Q. What is county spending money on this year?

A. Housing: The Landbank will receive funding. The County has been working with Home Headquarters for 1% loans for people in the Valley for exterior improvements.

Q. How much is the County providing to Landbank?

A. The County is not charging sewer fees to the Landbank, that number could be around \$300,000 as well as an additional \$300,000 in funding. The Landbank will be fine this year.

Q. You tweeted 'There's a deer on the roof'

A. Yes, it was a retweet. It is a real issue all over the North East now; doctors are getting better at detecting lime disease early. There are other small animals that carry ticks, but deer are the main carrier. At least 8 cases of lime were diagnosed in the Winkworth neighborhood.

**Committee Reports:**

**Beautification:** Carl Sharak informed the group that the trash can was received & approved by DPW for Atlantic & Ballantyne. George Matthews presented the group with the Park survey he issued last month.

**Planning:** The sewer trunk that goes to Brighton mews property is owned by the Town of Onondaga. The Town said they will give it to the county; the issue is that there is no manhole where the connection meets the city's connection.

**Presentations: Zombie Houses: Stephanie Pasquale, Department of Neighborhood Development**

One of the Tools used to address vacant properties is the Landbank; which are tax delinquent. About 2/3 of vacant properties are not tax seize-able because someone is paying the taxes (usually a bank that is going through a foreclosure process). On blighted properties, the City will be addressing the exterior issues and putting the bill on the owner's taxes. Rather than getting a \$250 fine, they will get a \$4,000 charge for the work. There are about 1,600 vacant structures in the city of Syracuse and the City may only be able to address a couple hundred a year. It is difficult for the city to prioritize what is important to the community. The Loveland App will be utilized to collect this data and help prioritize what properties are most important to you and your neighborhood.

Q. Is there some way to put security into the house and charge the owner?

A. We could get an affidavit to go into the property, but there needs to be probably cause. We want to make sure properties are secured. It would be challenging to put in a security system through the court system. Municipal Violations Bureau is being pursued to change the Code Violations, where people are issued tickets and must fix it or pay a fee rather than go through the court system.

Q. How can people reach you?

A. 315-448-8100 [Spasquale@syr.gov.net](mailto:Spasquale@syr.gov)

If you could come up with a top ten list of properties, it would be great to come back intermittently to discuss the changes in the future.

**TNT City-Wide Updates: Caroline West**

Caroline informed the group that the Board has a new chair, Pat Body. Carl and Carline will be on the board for another year. The Council refunded TNT for another year, the contract was signed last week. Mayor Minor will signing it so we can get our funding directly, rather than having every single expenditure scrutinized by the Budget Director of the City by June 30<sup>th</sup>. This will allow us to carry funds over for bigger projects.

**Announcements:**

- 1) June 21<sup>st</sup> Meachem Park Association Meeting at the Cecil Center
- 2) Field Days July 19-23. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday open 3-10pm, Saturday 1 – 10pm. Sugar Daddys will be entertaining Friday night.
- 3) No Meeting in July
- 4) Pancake Breakfast, Fathers day at the Legion. 8am – 11am
- 5) Free Rabies clinic at the Onondaga Nation Fire Hall on July 6<sup>th</sup>
- 6) Free RABis clinic at Saint Lucys on August 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7pm
- 7) This Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> the annual Valley Tailgate sale from 9am – 3pm.
- 8) Valley Treasure Hunt, June 21 runs through end of the month. If you find the tag, you get \$100
- 9) Senator Valesky's Summer Reading Program for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. All information is on the website