

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of August 2016 minutes: Motion by Elyzabeth Gannon, seconded by Marilyn Madison, motion carried.

SPD Officer Joe Evans discussed recent events and new issues with residents, including speeding on Dorwin Avenue. Truck speeds were reduced, but vehicles still fly by. Two speed readers are on order and he will put Dorwin Ave. on the site list. Panhandlers were reported at the Turnpike Center, the Cecile Center, and two almost every day at the I-81 Brighton exit. The panhandlers have been ticketed (32 times) and only two were homeless. One, from Fayetteville, was being transported by his mother. Burglaries in the valley are 65-75% more likely in areas where there is no Neighborhood Watch group.

Syracuse Police Deputy Chief Joe Cecile spoke about camera funding and placement in Syracuse neighborhoods. Most are purchased with funds specified for certain areas, and they are installed in specific locations with higher criminal activity. The city hasn't had to pay for any cameras yet, with costs being covered by Albany dollars (Pam Hunter, Bill Magnarelli, or other local representatives). There is currently a big installation scheduled for the North Side. The cameras work, either to identify suspects, or as a deterrent. Costs are around \$12-15,000 each. SPD does not, at this time, have access to the cameras at city schools. Councilor Boyle will look into sharing info between schools and the police. Dep. Chief Cecile suggests that neighborhoods lobby city and Albany legislators for funding. Councilor Hudson spoke about installations needing to be aligned near libraries and schools, having them put at "hot spots". Process includes negotiation with National Grid for permission to use their poles and involves two contractors.

Common Councilor Susan Boyle spoke about the real estate inspection vote. She didn't think it would be impactful, and will continue conversations working toward improvements for the issue. One resident reported a property to be inspected on West Seneca Turnpike with construction debris, rats, and loose dogs. Updates: The church property sale- Seller's survey doesn't match property lines, and they are getting a new survey. The buyers will pull buyers to the block around the church. Dunkin' Donuts project on Brighton is moving forward. The Meachem Field electronic sign was not insured for damages, and is beyond repair. The mother board is obsolete and the sign needs to be replaced at a cost of \$30,000 or so. She's looking everywhere for funding; SCSD is strapped for funds, but she will seek help from the Mayor. Common Councilor Helen Hudson spoke about working on a Panhandler Initiative, starting at the grass roots level. A Meachem School neighbor reported the mowing contractor(s) are doing shoddy work, and that the "low bidder" plan is getting unsatisfactory results (poor workmanship, the employee chained a dog to his truck while he was mowing, and had come without keys to access the field at 8:15 p.m. on a Saturday night). Parks had to come and re-mow the bad job.

Committee Reports –

- Parks & Beautification – Carl reported that three benches and trashcans have been installed. The city/county arborist has agreed to put in two trees between the Charter School and St. James on South Salina Street.
- Public Safety & Planning –Kathy Stribley reported on the Family Dollar project at Ballantyne and Salina. The developer came back with changes/improvements showing parking was reconfigured with less destruction. There will be no double fence reducing impact on the tree's root system and an evergreen buffer will be added.

Facilitator elections: Elyzabeth Gannon, Chuck Taylor, Tina Giblin, Marilyn Madison, Carl Sharak and Jeff Wright were elected. Caroline West withdrew her name from the election.

Announcements

- St. James annual Fall Festival will be held September 13th from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Webster Pond Neighborhood Watch meets monthly at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Next meeting will be Thursday, October 13th at 7:00 p.m.
- Friends of Wildlife at Webster Pond will be having a Spaghetti Dinner at the Legion on September 30th..
- Meachem Area Parks Association meets next Wednesday, August 17th meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Cecile Center. "Howl-o-ween" event will be held at Cecile Center October 29th from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Next Valley TNT meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at the Cecile Center at 7:00 p.m.