

University Height Collaborative General Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2019

Attendance- Candy Hayes has list of attendees

1. Buffalo Police District E and UB security and a representative of NFTA attended the general meeting to discuss disruption in the University District since the students returned this fall. Chief Menza gave a summary of police activity in the district, 22 large disruptive parties with several properties being repeat offenders, 169 and 180 Merrimac Street, and 152 1st 156 Lisbon Street being the worst. The Merrimac Street group was a 99 Englewood last year, and this is this landlord knows this group is a problem for the neighborhood and rented to them anyway. Chief Menza says the next step is to take them to housing court where Judge Carney can evict them. Landlord seems unwilling to make any effort to control them.
2. UB is trying to figure out how to make fraternities accountable, so far not much luck. UB says call 911 if there is a problem, they need a police report to be able to do anything.
3. Neighborhood issues raised: Lots of illegal parking issues, blocking sidewalks, parking on front lawns. Wyatt says send copies of parking enforcement issues to his office. We asked police to monitor and issue tickets. Police presence in Linear Park has been helpful.
4. Councilman Wyatt attended the meeting and reported on recent developments with Richie's Soul Food restaurant on Main Street. Chief Menza has sent the Council a list of violations with the restaurant, the SLA has also found that their activities have been illegal. They have been having large parties on Sundays in violation of their permit and the parties have been unruly and dangerous. Councilman Wyatt was not clear about whether the City Council will renew their permit in spite of the illegal and disruptive activity.
5. Councilman Wyatt announced a meeting on Thursday September 12 to discuss the Slow Streets program. Meeting will be at 5:30 at Girard Place center. Applications will need 24 signatures and are due in by September 30. He is pushing for traffic cameras at Schools to stop speeding in school zones.
6. Tess Morrissey from UB announced that UB is expanding their incentive program offering down payment money to UB employees who buy a house in the University District to part time employees.
7. Daren Cotton from UDCDA and The Tool Library gave a presentation about a grant extending the rail trail from Main Street through the east side connecting the William Gaiter Parkway Cycle trail. The ultimate goal is to connect Niagara Falls to the Southern Tier. They are also working with the Western NY Land Conservancy to connect with the downtown rail trail and to connect the Orchard Park to Cattaraugus trail UB architecture students are helping to design the trail. You can support the project by answering 3 questions over 4 weeks at the UDCDA web site.
8. There will be a Linear Park clean up September 28, a McCarthy Park clean up October 5 and a tree planting on October 2. Meet at the Tool Library.
9. A representative of Ampion Community Solar explained a program available to local residents and non-profits to use community solar. Investors have sponsored a community solar facility that will sell solar electricity to residents at a 10% discount from their normal National Grid costs. To access the program you join at signup@ampion.net. You then get a share of the solar power the solar farm produces, depending on the farm's output, and you get billed by Ampion instead of National Grid for that power at a 10% discount from the National Grid cost. The

investors got the tax credits for constructing the solar and will be producing renewable clean energy and selling the power at a discount to the public.

10. The Christine Brooks Garden Program announced a seed exchange and planter sale for September 28 at the University Presbyterian Church on Main Street. Also two fundraisers are coming up, on October 9 at Denny's on Main at Harlem between 4 and 10 20% of the profit will go to Christine Brooks and at any time at the Venus restaurant at University Plaza 15% goes to Christine Brooks if bought with a card available from the Garden club.
11. Meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by Susan Carpenter