



**UNIQUE
DIVERSE
AFFORDABLE**

University Heights Collaborative
5 W. Northrup Place
Buffalo, NY 14214
www.ourheights.org

December 8, 2015

UHC General Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at commenced at 7:12 pm

Speaker: Chris Jacobs: Erie County Clerk

- Will not speak to the general body tonight
- Spoke to Board about closing the bars at 2 am

Darren Cotton: UDCDA Fundraiser

- \$20 donation will be entered for monthly raffle
- Raffle each month
- Money will go to the youth programming and funding for the programs
- Can be purchased at housing office on Kensington and at the Gloria J. Parks Center
- Visit www.udcda.org/raffle to learn more

Livestock within City Limits:

- Candy H.:
 - A house on Merrimac had hens and roosters on the sidewalk
 - Man was given 24 hours to remove birds
 - It is against the law – can have five birds legally, but no roosters
 - It was extended to 48 hours
 - The birds was seen walking in and outside of the house
 - By November 30th, the birds were supposed to be gone
 - The birds were hidden
 - The owner of the property lives in Las Vegas
 - The management company could not be contacted
 - The birds have since been removed
 - Now that the birds are gone for now, and the UB HOME program is being implemented, what is the next step in fixing this blighted house?
 - Who is responsible for this house?
 - Doris and the Councilman Wyatt have been very helpful in trying to remove the birds
 - The codes say that the neighbors must agree to having five hens
 - Have not yet heard about neighbor complaints
 - With Linear Park, this is unacceptable
 - Residents came from Texas

- Mickey V.:
 - There aren't many neighbors to this location
 - These chickens were walking on the sidewalk
 - Will work with the resident and help them understand the rules and regulations
 - Five cars with Texas plates – talked with son to learn more about family's situation

- Fred B.:
 - City charter addresses foul regulations in the City –individual must be licensed to own in city
 - Property manager must be registered in the city
 - We need to get a hold of the property manager: his phone has been disconnected
 - The city needs to share information concerning the direction this property is going: manager, owner, etc.
 - The managers and owners need to be held accountable, and this information is part of the inspectors knowledge – should be public
 - We need to be demand that we are part of this solution
 - Bottom Line: we can no longer try to compromise
 - There is a need for succinct information for this property
 - The landlord in Las Vegas does not care about what is going on this property
 - County of Erie provides 80-85 percent of payment to housing costs to those on public assistance

- Candy:
 - He had contacted the guy in Las Vegas but not yet the property manager

- Ray:
 - There is nothing wrong with working with residents

- Fred:
 - We need to know exactly what is going on
 - The letter of the housing laws is not being upheld by these landlords
 - As a city of Buffalo citizen, you have the right to make an educational decision on what to choose for housing
 - The tenant is not the issue: it is the quality of housing elements

- Mickey:
 - We are making initiatives to work on this together to assist these people
 - We are helping the family clean up the house
 - We are going to contact the house
 - Blight draws these types of action – crime, etc. are drawn to these types of places

Updates on Campus North:

- Not going to be a student rental property – will be focused on young professionals
- Want to help with the Impact Team
- Aim to help the neighbors and community
- Will be open to working with UHC, landlords and neighborhood organizations to boost the image and quality of life of the community

Development of Legacy Development:

- Mickey:
 - Open house in January
 - Will be starting at \$1000 or higher a month
 - For students
 - Own security in compound with amenities
 - Will be hiring students
 - 250 units
 - Located on Main and LaSalle
 - Within walking distance of the subway
 - Behind the William Price development
 - Students will have more choices
 - Businesses may come to serve the community base and spread the population of students
 - If they actively engage in the community
- Gail W.:
 - Will students go to party houses?

Rails to Trails:

- Everything is up
- There is still some cement work to do but will be done next year
- Black top for now until they can finish next year

Gary:

- Lives on Northrup Street and individuals are parking illegally
- Students park where they shouldn't during plow times
- The new walkway and bricks are in the way of a big truck to move on the street for plowing purposes when cars are in the way
- No one can turn around because of the traffic on the street
- The cars never change the sides
- The sign is part of the car port
- Solution? Move the sign to the car port
 - Fred B.: "Tag and Tow" by the City of Buffalo is essential

- The city needs to take care of these cars
 - If the cars weren't parked there then cars could turn around
 - In the rental registry law, imported by the City of Buffalo, it lost the part where it makes sure there is enough parking for each resident
 - In Rochester, if you rent to 5 students, then you have to have 5 parking spots
 - Those cars need to be moved so that it can be plowed on alternate days
 - Enforcement of City code is not there
- Councilman Wyatt: We need to talk to city planning and help students understand the code
 - Mickey: let's work with the neighbors – it's unrealistic to have a parking spot for each resident
 - We may be able to move the boulders

Capen Garden Walk:

- Linda Young, Chairman of Capen Garden Walk:
 - Poster Art contest is beginning – advertisement and application are on FB page and will be on website
 - The University Heights Arts Association will host a poster art competition and related exhibition
 - The UH Arts Association set it all up and will be judging the pictures and will be giving the prize
 - The photos will be due in the coming months and the poster will be made from the winning artwork
 - All submitted artwork will be included in an exhibit in Buffalo and in Lockport at UH Art Association Art Crawl
 - Those who submit will have their artwork exhibited
 - Starting Christine Brooks Memorial Garden Grant:
 - Some money will be allotted one or more people to supply, improve or start a garden within area of garden walk
 - If you know someone who would like to start a garden and would like to do so – we would buy them a membership to the TL
 - Applications out in January and early February
 - Will be asking for continued donations to the Memorial Fund
 - Garden Walk on July 16th from 10 am to 4 pm
 - Support from UHC and Councilman Wyatt's office
 - Selling candy bars for donation money
- Tool Library:
- Having first Members Forum Saturday from 12 pm to 4 pm
 - Internal operations discussed
 - External operations – are there other projects for the community?
 - Feedback
 - \$500 donation from Kraftsman Tools
 - Got a circular saw and air compressor
 - Selling gift cards
- ReTree
- 585 trees have been planted

- 1 Spring and 1 Fall 2016 sessions
 - Will have 1,000 tree goal accomplished
 - Will then go to tree stewardship
 - Giving Tuesday launched – looking to receive \$5000 by Earth Day
- CoLab:
 - GSA renting the space on December 11th
 - #HappyPeriod Buffalo beginning to have meetings on Saturday December 19th from 11-1pm
 - H.O.M.E workshop, DIY workshop series
- UDCDA program:
 - Uptown Theater grand opening will be soon
 - Transformation can be seen on website
 - Main Street Business Association Meeting on Jan 19th
 - Question of last meeting: how can we deck out Main Street with decorations?
 - Members are paying \$5 a month more to have them but the lights aren't working
- Is there anything going on with sidewalks with Englewood and Kenmore?
 - Sidewalks will be reconstructed in Spring
 - The meetings have ended but this issue can be brought up again
- Mickey V.:
 - If you look at Main Street, our signals from Parkside to Bailey are not synchronized
 - There has been money set aside to do this project but this has yet to be done
 - Ray R.:
 - Lights out on corner of University
 - National Grid needs to do this
 - Fred B.:
 - The section on 311 for lights by email
 - They need to notify National Grid
 - Until they notify National Grid you cannot report it to National Grid
- Councilman Wyatt:
 - When you call 311 the city should be responding right away to the request
 - 311 should be responding within 2 days
 - We will follow up with this issue
- Meeting in January concerning the bar closing time
 - Mickey: the UHC will be told when the meeting is for the potential change in bar closing time
 - Chris Jacobs said he would be sending information. Will become more informed with information. Chris Jacobs said that he would return
 - Aaron: Chris Jacobs has the responsibility to send along statistical information concerning the issue.

- Asked for stats on alcohol related deaths comparing region or counties
- Councilman Wyatt:
 - To kick off the Rails to Trails would like to have a Tree Lighting ceremony 12/15 (Tuesday) at 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
 - Hot chocolate and cookies will be given

Mickey:

- Information will be posted on website

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm

Please visit our website <http://www.ourheights.org/> for updates on agendas and minutes from previous meetings and well as news and events from the community.

The next general UHC meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00pm