

University Height Collaborative General Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2019

Attendance- Candy Hayes has list of attendees

1. The guest speaker, Oswaldo Mestre, Director of Citizens Services for Buffalo, discussed the “love your block” program which encourages block clubs to apply for grants to fund block club projects. This year the focus will be on the Bailey Kensington, Masten, MLK Park and Lower West Side neighborhoods. University Heights will be included in the 2020 program. He also discussed the Mayor’s Wintermission program which is an initiative that will make it easier for people of all ages to enjoy the outdoors in the winter. The Mayor wants to create a series of exciting projects and events to be launched next winter. Log on to a survey to share your ideas at wintermission.org/buffalo
2. Mr. John Dunsmore of Citizens Services will lead a city wide project starting in May this spring called “Save Our Streets/clean sweep program”. This initiative will involve building inspections, tree trimming, street cleaning and other activities to improve our neighborhoods.
3. Mandy Ferrine and Mohammed Alhigaye are going to open a Hookah Lounge at 3063/3067 Main Street. This will not be a night club, will not serve alcohol or allow large parties with DJ’s. The business will have surveillance cameras, provide security guards and check ID’s at the door. They plan to keep areas around the building and parking lot clean and participate in community events. Chief Menza suggested that Ferrine work with the UHC and the Councilman’s office to put terms for the business in writing, for example hours of operation, what is expected and what will not be allowed.
4. Four new Board members were introduced, Mike Cartwright, Errikka Willard, Devin Zimmer and Nicholas Marino.
5. Chief Menza gave an update on the recent criminal activity in the neighborhood. While the police have not apprehended anyone for the vandalism on Main Street earlier this winter, there have been no incidents in 6 or 7 weeks. This is an ongoing investigation. Chief Menza also reported on the recent shooting on Flower Street which took place at approximately 1 AM on March 11. One person was injured and two houses were damaged, which is the house occupied by the targets and the house next door. An eviction proceeding was referred to Judge Carney for disposition on March 15.
6. Linda Young announced the Brooks Garden Grant program. This program will help fund additions to local gardens to encourage gardeners to beautify the neighborhood and participate in the Samuel P Capen Garden Walk. Application can be found at www.ourheights.org.
7. Councilman Wyatt’s office announced that the 8 Days of Hope program, a new area not for profit program, will be assisting University District homeowners with repairs to their homes. To be eligible the home must be owner occupied. Referrals to the program will be made though

area churches or the Councilman's office. For more information contact your church or the Councilman's office at 716-831-5165.