

MAIN STREET BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

September Meeting

9/29/15 6:30 PM

Present: Tucker Curtin, Larry Kinney, Mary Ouimette-Kinney, Ken Kash, Molly Kash, Tsegia Mesfin, Roseann Scibillia, Saleh Sayad, Michael C., Larry Gustina, Mike Miranda Jr., Mike Miranda Sr. , Matt Kopalek, Linda Garwol, Mickey Vertino, Chris Weinert.

Business response to issues with UB students and bussing

Those present were offered the opportunity to offer their opinions on the issue and how it affects the neighborhood.

- Consensus: **We welcome students to the neighborhood.**
- There is a need for the University and Police to control unruly students.
- Landlords need to hold their renters accountable – evict them if not being good neighbors. Landlords are also ultimately responsible for their properties.
- UB and the city have to stop blaming each other for difficulties.
- Community stakeholders meeting with President Satish Tripathi was discussed.
 - UB will hold its students more accountable with suspensions and expulsions when students are arrested or given citations. The expectations are being clearly stated to students.
 - A committee will review intercampus transportation - The busing of students will be revisited.
 - A proposal for Shared Stakeholders was discussed. It is based on successful interactions between urban universities, neighborhoods and businesses.
- City must address public safety issues – quality of life issues
 - Outside influences that target students – predators must be stopped.
 - Pedestrian safety is important.
 - Police are not always responding at this time.
- The need for “community” policing was stated – police on foot or on bikes to enhance life for students and residents.
- There is a need for better communication between the stakeholders, UB and the city.
- Pre-emptive community policing –Concentrate on enforcement of laws in weeks prior to the beginning of the semester to reduce negative behaviors and then continue year round enforcement.
- More policing of **ALL** residents.
- The need for littering signage and enforcement of laws pertaining to littering.
- Need to address lighting problems
 - Better lighting
 - Prune trees on Main St.
 - Replace lights when burned out
- Need for police removal of panhandlers.
- Need for a better system to assess houses, ensuring code enforcement, addressing structural issues and occupancy rules.
- There is a need for better communication with:

- NFTA police
- UB
- Metro police
- Mayor's office
- Satish Tripathi, UB's President
- Landlords
- Issues that are also ongoing
 - The number of traffic accidents
 - Public intoxication
- It was suggested that more should be done to address neighborhood concerns/student behaviors at student orientation.
- **Overwhelming theme: Police need to enforce laws currently being ignored. Enforcement needs to include: students, residents, landlords, and visitors to the neighborhood.**

Better Buffalo Fund: Roseann Scibilia stated that money for Parkside Candy restoration will be released in fall. A new round of funding will be available in January.

- The Main Street Business Association will hold a workshop to explain the grant.
- It was requested that the application be posted online at our website, allowing businessmen to view it ahead of time.

New Business:

Sal Sayad presented his plans for a new business at 3083 Main St. He is hoping to open a deli specializing in Middle Eastern foods. It will sell prepared foods, groceries, cigarettes, cold cuts. Planned hours of operation are 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM (10:00 PM the latest). He was asked to consider how he would address signage, trash, loitering and if he would have pertinent licenses. A professional sign will be made (not occluding the entire front windows). Trash will be regularly picked up in the front of the property and loitering issues will be referred to the police. He will obtain all necessary licenses.

The owner of Winspear Liquors at Main and Lisbon, discussed his attempts to clean his property of litter.

The issue of new garbage cans was discussed. Ken and Molly Kash, from Flying Anvil Metal Works, along with Lawrence Kinney of Lawrence Kinney Sculptures and Furnishings will design new cans. The University Heights Arts Association will oversee this project and as such will act as the liaison to the business association. It was suggested that we receive the specifications from the city prior to any designs. Commissioner Stepniak is currently working on new guidelines. Mickey Vertino will get the specs. The Business Association will attempt to make current cans serviceable by replacing liners or possible repairs.

Next Meeting: November 5, 2015, 6:30 PM at the Steer.

- Meeting will focus on The Better Buffalo Fund
- Update regarding cans