



Central Northside Neighborhood Council

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**General Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 11, 2011
Mattress Factory, 7:00 p.m.**

In Attendance:

Meeting called to order by Chris D'Addario, President.

1. Announcements

a. NSLC New Signage Committee

Any interested members are welcomed. For more information, contact the Northside Leadership Conference at 412.330.2559.

b. NSLC Education Committee

Pittsburgh Public Schools facilities re-organization in the works. Any interested member should contact Mark Fatla or Kelly McKay at the NSLC.

c. Ordinance for Bees/Chickens in Urban Setting

Jana Thompson has a petition at her house on Resaca and requests anyone supporting the effort to sign it.

2. Treasurer's Report

Barbara Talerico reviewed the financials.

The CNNC received property tax money back for Jacksonia properties.

The CNNC applied for a Google grant, but were turned down. Today had a conference call with Google reps, David Charlton and Barb Talerico, did receive some answers, but not sure that the CNNC website is a wide enough scope for the Google team. Only 4 of 50+ entities that applied received money. One was based out of Mt. Lebanon, and money awarded was to pick up leaves.

Motion made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Steve Adams. Motion seconded by Paul Carson. Motion unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the June 13, 2011

Motion made to approve the June General Membership Meeting Minutes by Anthony Cabral. Motion seconded by Randy Zotter. Motion unanimously approved.

4. President's Report

Chris D'Addario reported that most of what's happened in the last month will be discussed by the committee chairs of Development, Branding, and Communication.

Safety Committee have had two safety meetings as well as the NSLC Safety Committee. The CNNC is re-energizing the committee and in the process of continued information gathering. All are welcome to participate.

Bylaws Committee has met twice and includes participants from the general membership. There will be changes proposed to the Bylaws that will be brought to the membership in September. There is a 3-month process involved with the membership to approve any proposed changes, but watch for more to come.

S&A Homes Phase II, first half is 100% accounted for, which is 19 homes. Welcome wagon idea still being considered by the Communications Committee.

5. Development Update

Historic District Expansion

Still working through the process. The CNNC is working to coordinate an educational session for the membership.

Federal Hill Development

Progress on Phase II continues to be made. Construction progress can be seen daily. All 19 homes of the first half of Phase II have been accounted for.

Scattered Site Development

October Development is readying for site preparation with shovels in the ground expected soon.

Garden Theater Block

Craig Totino is to provide an update at the next General Membership Meeting.

6. Branding Update

Anthony Cabral / Randi Marshak

Anthony Cabral referred to the Branding Flier available at the tables at entrance. This will also be posted to the CNNC website. Randi Marshak noted that an effort will be made to reach out to residents that might not be online with our standard communication channels to specifically target the African American community as well as non-electronic distribution lists. Goal is to have a minimum of 100 completed surveys. The survey will be sent to ChatNorthside, AnnounceLists, etc. Expect a 25-40% response rate. Joan Kimmel asked what venues other than Chat or Announce. Karina Westfall has graciously volunteered to pepper the neighborhood with fliers, Anthony Cabral asked the membership to suggest specific areas for paper distribution to help increase participation.

Barbara Luderowski volunteered the Mattress Factory as one location where surveys may be obtained. Anthony Cabral also noted that surveys would be left at BV Coffee, the Library, and other locations. Door-to-door distribution also being considered.

Notice provided that there would be an August 8, 2011 meeting at the Mattress Factory with North Star, dedicated solely to the branding effort. Goals of that day include providing North Star an opportunity to educate the neighborhood as a whole. One topic, as an example, is renaming the neighborhood. North Star will be in the neighborhood for 3 days to accomplish the following: 1. Setting the tone of the branding effort, 2. Meeting with key stakeholders (Representatives from the City, Developers, Local Artists, Local Businesses, Churches/Local religious leaders) and 3. Presenting to the Membership.

Survey aimed to be distributed in next 2 weeks, would be sooner, but with recommended changes may take longer.

Julie Peterson – Communications Chair

Julie noted that volunteers would be welcomed in helping to distribute the fliers and surveys throughout the neighborhood. Please contact info@cnnc-pgh.org to volunteer or for more information.

Monthly Press Release

Have been working with Karen Bryant, Communications Consultant, to work on a monthly press release. This month, the Federal Hill/S&A Homes Press Release was picked up by the Post-Gazette. We are working to keep that momentum going.

Allegheny General Hospital Employee Tour of the Neighborhood

At least once per year, AGH works to promote a neighborhood adjacent to the hospital as a potential place for employees to live. Expect 25+ on the tour, who are employees of AGH. Will occur this Thursday, kicking off at the Deli on North then walking through the neighborhood. If you see the group Thursday evening, please say hello and promote the neighborhood.

Welcome Kit/Basket for New Residents

Julie noted that they are compiling ideas for a welcome basket, but also trying to secure funding sources.

Website

Working continuously to improve the website. Anyone with a technical background is called to assist in any way. Contact Julie if you would like to assist at info@cnnc-pgh.org.

7. Beautification Committee

John Engle reported he continues to work in conjunction with the Mexican War Streets Society on various beautification projects, including monthly First Saturday neighborhood cleanup days. First Saturday cleanups meet at 10 am at Mechanics

Retreat Park across from Buena Vista Coffee.

Other areas of focus for Beautification efforts: development is on Eloise, which is near the garden that Randy Gilson started on Veto Way. There is no budget for this effort, so any volunteers welcomed.

Alpine Gardens is another targeted area for clean up efforts. John Engle is working with the Safety Committee to develop a strategy. Councilman Lavelle's office is going to meet for a walk-through.

October 22, 2011 the University of Pittsburgh will be sending students for project work throughout the neighborhood. There is a call for volunteers to supervise the students.

8. Old Business.

Sampsonia Way Right-of-Way Change

Chris D'Addario introduced the subject. Greg Spicer, Barbara Luderowski, and Cmdr. Rashall Brackney will speak.

Greg Spicer provided a history. In July 2008, Greg Spicer met with Mayor Ravenstahl and others for a Public Safety Summit, and Mike Huss, Director of Public Safety for the City, was also present. Traffic studies were conducted to help determine how to effect change to the drug loop. That same year, a design firm was selected to work on the CNNC Community Plan. In September 2009, the recommendations were posted both on the CNNC-website and in the public library. In 2010, met with a consultant to help prioritize rollout of the Community Plan.

In April 11, 2011 the CNNC had the proposed Sampsonia Way change on the agenda, but Public Works had to cancel.

On May 9, 2011 Rob Kaczorowski, City Public Works Director, and Henry Reese, resident, presented to the General Membership to endorse the change, which was voted on and approved unanimously by the general membership. GSpicer does believe that we could discuss how to mitigate impact to the neighborhood.

BLuderowski noted that she in 2008 signed a letter of support to directional change. Since then she has added a loading dock and parking lot and the diagonal steps are made to accommodate the prior direction of the street. She indicated that she no longer supports the directional change.

Barbara Luderowski also noted that The Mattress Factory has a number of events throughout the year. Some statistics provided for 2010-11 included and that some of the event do, some do not, require deliveries:

Annual Garden Party
19 weddings
93 tours with buses
2 morning events (class-type events)
13 day events

Barbara Luderowski was hoping this would open the dialog again for reconsideration of reopening this issue.

CD'Addario invited members of the audience to comment on the street directional change.

Comments from the membership included:

- A suggestion for the City to conduct a traffic study to measure the impact of how the directional change affects various aspects of the neighborhood, including crime and traffic control.
- It was noted that the CNNC did not start this process, but that it was brought to the CNNC General Membership.
- Concerns regarding the effect on house values for homes impacted by the new signage were expressed.
- A resident with a garage on Sampsonia noted that the new optical pattern viewed in the new direction seemed to be slowing down speeders.
- Some drivers were continuing to drive down the street in the wrong direction.

Rashall Brackney, Commander at the Zone 1 Police Station, has been assigned to Zone 1 for three years. The Commander noted that traffic control signs are used to control traffic flow, but that they are not used to control drug issues or safety. Noted that there must be a study done to control the direction of traffic. The problem as she sees it is using resources as they are not intended to be used. Her only concern is traffic safety patterns. There is 30 days required to allow citizens to learn directional changes. Paul Carson asked Commander Brackney why Public Works didn't notify anyone of the directional change? RBrackney noted it's because someone petitioned them.

Henry Reese provided some information on the background. The neighbors on the street noted that they needed 70% of the property owners on the street to sign a petition.

Commander Brackney added that when heard the street change was an issue, she talked with Barbara Luderowski about some creative ways to address some traffic pattern issues.

If the traffic flow is really an issue, then Commander Brackney suggested working with traffic and engineering to find out why this change was recommended and also to ensure that a traffic affects study is conducted.

Rashall Brackney noted that she will work with Rob Kaczoranski and the Public Works Department on next steps.

Community members reiterated that they felt a need for a traffic study to be conducted by appropriate parties.

Rashall Brackney to meet with Public Works as well as Traffic and Engineering to determine not only the affect of the one block change, but also to look at the overall traffic flow for the neighborhood.

Commander Brackney indicated that she is aware of changes on Alpine to help with the drug traffic flow.

A representative from Councilman Lavelle's Office Assistant noted that Council Lavelle is aware of the situation and is working to pull a meeting together. A meeting has not yet been set up due to time/scheduling conflicts.

A resident noted that the directional change was not made by the CNNC, but that it was compatible with the CNNC Master Plan. Added the point that if this directional change is part of a bigger plan, and that other recommended traffic pattern changes be monitored.

Resident of Taylor noted that it's nice to see the traffic calm. And suggested that we consider special rules that could apply to Mattress Factory and City of Asylum.

Commander Brackney noted that Traffic and Engineering is the department required to notify of changes – not necessarily individually, but perhaps via their website. Commander Brackney noted that once she finds out she will also make sure information is on the Zone 1 website. The most productive, effective, efficient use of time right now is to confirm the meeting space with Councilman Lavelle, to include only disinterested parties, and now understands the concerns of the Mattress Factory and the CNNC Master Plan, and to report back to community.

Colleen Bender requested that both Councilman Lavelle's Office and Commander Brackney attend the next CNNC membership meeting to report an update.

9. New Business.

Pat Buck announced that they are requesting participation by the surrounding communities regarding Allegheny Dwellings. Have sent letters to Director of Public Housing and others. Will continue to seek support.

Monterey Properties for City of Asylum

Greg Mucha asked Henry Reese regarding the Zoning Hearing coming up for the Monterey Street City of Asylum properties. Henry noted that the architect is going to present the building plans to Zoning on July 20th.

Randy Zotter moved to adjourn. Paul Carson seconded. Meeting adjourned by Chris D'Addario, President at 9:06 pm

There is no General Membership Meeting in August.

The Branding Meeting will be August 8, 2011 at the Mattress Factory.

The next CNNC General Membership Meeting will be Monday, September 12, 2011, 7:00 pm.