

Frog Hollow

Neighborhood Revitalization Zone

Meeting minutes of April 16, 2019

Attendance: Lee McLean Houle, Steve Balcanoff, LT. Jesus Lopez, Marion Griffin, Janice Castle, Paige Berschet, Julie Ann Robinson, Officer Steven Pino, Acting Police Chief Jason Thody, Mary Lee Morrison, Steve Yenke, Aaron Gill, Ron Peasley, Sandra Bernstein, Dan Kiernan, Barry Kriesberg, Graciela Rivera, Arianna Basche, Grace Yi, Mary Falvey, Melvyn Colon, Bridget Quinn-Carey

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 by Aaron

- I. Minutes approval – Janice made the motion, Marion seconded.
- II. HPD – Acting Chief Jason Thody introduced himself and spoke about his background, values, and his plans for the department under his leadership. Q + A followed. Officer Pino reported on the crime statistics for the previous month. Included in his report – the number of citizen contacts in Frog Hollow has increased. He also made the request regarding 4-wheelers and dirt bikes. If you see them pull into an area and park, place a call to HPD as this may eliminate a potential danger.
- III. FD report – LT. Lopez
 - put in a plug for people to consider renter's insurance policies
 - A reminder that he can be contacted for free smoke detectors
 - Reviewed last month's emergency responses.
- IV. Love Your Block – Paige and Julie Ann spoke about the awards ceremony on 4/30 for the selected projects. And reminded the group that there will be new opportunities for projects to get funding in the future.
- V. City of Hartford – Janice, Grace, David
 - Janice - The Mayor released his budget and the process has begun for departments to justify their requests.
 - Tours of City Hall are available.
 - Current leaf collection requires residents to use paper bags on their collection day for the next 3 weeks.
 - New Booklets on City of Hartford Services Resident Guide are available.
 - May thru September – city vendor program at city hall for local artists and crafts.
 - Spoke about the anti-litter campaign.
 - Grace – Office of Sustainability, Earth month activities flyer with 4 highlights, and encouraged us to check out the website for other activities
 - David – raising awareness of the needs for residents to consider applying to be active with the city's Boards and Commissions. New members are needed on most.

- VI. 151 Ward Street presentations and request, Sandra Bernstein – asking for a letter of support to demolish the building. She gave background information and rationale for the request. Mary offered the perspective of the Hartford Preservation Alliance. After discussion, Melvyn made a motion to write a letter of support if the deed restriction verifying “funeral use only” that satisfies the Hartford Historical Commission and Hartford Preservation Alliance that the deed restriction can’t be removed. Mary Lee seconded the motion. A vote was taken. 5 voted, “yes”, 2 voted, “no”, and one abstained.
- VII. Other presentations:
- Strategic Plan – no report
 - Neighborhood Investment Melvyn will move to the May meeting
 - HPL – Bridget reported that bids for construction of the new Park Street Library came in higher than budgeted. There is a \$1.8 million shortfall. There will be a capital campaign to help close the gap. They still hope to break ground soon.
 - Mutual Housing – Steve – Hub on Park plans to break ground in May. Some changes to the design were made to meet the request of the Historical Commission.
 - Hartford 2000 – Marion – will postpone an activity until next meeting. She referred to a handout and asked all to review prior to our next meeting.
 - Kudos given out to Joe and Lee for their work on creating agendas for all of us.
 - I-84 update – 10 -year project starting in mid- 2020’s. 4-5 years, first phase to include a new transit station and relocating train tracks.
 - Property Development – no report
 - Youth Services – Steve and Mary Lee suggest making this an Ad Hoc committee and providing links at the NRZ website to the city’s services.
 - Recruitment and Outreach – no report
 - Employment – Melvyn - much going on, but will save the report until next month. Melvyn did mention SINA’s Neighborhood Service Awards and asked us to consider nominating individuals.
 - Ariana mentioned that plots for community gardening are available at Meeting adjourned at 8:05
 - Marion wanted to mention that on 5/27 there will be a community discussion on developmental impact and ordinance updating needs – Parker Memorial.

Minutes taken and presented by Steve Balcanoff