

# Frog Hollow

## Neighborhood Revitalization Zone

**February 19, 2019 Minutes**

Minutes presented by Cary Wheaton

**Present:** Steve Balcanoff, MaryLee Morrison, Officer Steven Pino, Officer Jeff Gonzalez, Janice Castle, Cary Wheaton, Dan Kiernan, Ron Peasle, Joe Barber, , Marion Griffin, Julie Ann Robinson, Paige Berschet, Lee McLean-Houle, Alex Mayer, Sheila Njau, Timothy Hobart, Aaron Gill, MaryEllen Shuckerow, Samantha Vinci, Elizabeth Crespan, Abby Ostrom, Tom Szymanski, Lionel Rigler, Christiane Pimentel, Graciela Rivera, Melvyn Colon, Barry Kriesberg

**Hartford Police Report:** Part 1 crimes are down 20% in the neighborhood. Most traffic stops and citizen interactions are happening in Frog Hollow. There is an uptick in break ins at businesses on Capital Avenue. On Park Street working with businesses to address panhandling. There is a pilot program for 40 officers wearing body cameras. Frog Hollow officers are part of the pilot. Per instructions from the mayor there is increased police coverage in the area. In summer the police will be on bikes.

Officer Pino cell phone # (959) 282-2158

**Hartford Fire Department:** No Representative

**Love Your Block:** March 1<sup>st</sup> is application due date, March 25<sup>th</sup> Grants selected by 13-person resident committee (Marion, Graciela, Aaron on committee). March through end of July projects are completed

### **City of Hartford:**

Next Town Hall Meeting with the Mayor--2/21 6:00 reSet, 30 Bartholomew Ave, 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Open topic meeting

Working on enforcement of sidewalk clearing during snowfalls. If snowfalls in daytime hours, owner has 6 hours to remove. If snow falls overnight, owner has 3 hours. City crew cleans vacant and blighted buildings, charged back to owner. Report uncleaned sidewalk on link at 311. Link allows attaching photos

Junior PGA happening at Keney Park July 2<sup>nd</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Looking for volunteers for tournament of 144 male and female players

Development Services: no report

**Community Development Block Grants:** Lionel Rigler reported on these HUD funds.

CDBG: Provides local government with funding to address community needs. Includes housing, services to vulnerable citizens, economic opportunities through creating jobs. Funds have dropped from 15 million ten years ago to 3.4 million today.

Citizen participation is important and NRZ meetings are used to gather input which becomes part of the record and is incorporated into the Annual Plan which is submitted to HUD. To qualify, recipient must be a 501c3 that serves low- and moderate-income Hartford residents.

Ideas: help for low income homeowners if not covered by other HOME funds

Lionel: Rebuilding Together receives funds to address issues, including accessibility. Mostly serves seniors. There are other funds at Developmental Services

Want to support programs at new Library, especially youth.

Lionel: can't give money directly to Library as they are already funded by the city but could look at funding partners providing programming and services housed in Library. This is the model for Billings Forge and downtown Library café which provides job training and youth programming.

Could work with elderly and health indicators of poor housing (i.e. Asthma) if a non-profit partner could be found. Suggestion: Building for Health – an existing program in Frog Hollow of health partners

**Strategic Plan Assistance from Trinity College:** Aaron was contacted by the City and Don Chapman that Trinity graduate students were looking to do a capstone project involving marketing for the NRZ/neighborhood. The students have ten weeks for the project. After presenting 7 ideas to Aaron and Marion, their group decided on Developing a Marketing Strategy for the NRZ. The groups being targeted in this plan are: residents, institutions and their employees, Trinity current community and graduates, those interested in the historical aspects of our community.

Input: since this student group is young, could there also be a focus on youth in the community who might respond best to new marketing strategies

Should include messaging at Trinity and institutions, including their newsletters

Might include streamlining of NRZ's website and Facebook page

NRZ could assist by onboarding potential new members better: orientation packet, provide childcare, move meetings to new Library

**Wheeler Clinic:** 43 Woodland Street

Complete health care system in one location. Turns no one away. Provides complimentary programs like yoga and Zumba. Mental health, addiction, primary care, well child, women's health, dental, etc. Tries to keep patients out of the ER. Happy to appear at meetings or community groups to discuss health issues.

**184:** City hired their own planners to create a city plan. Used DOT information which resulted in a plan of very defined scope. Were asked to return to next meeting with a better plan

**Library** – waiting for snow to end for construction. Final contractor not chosen . Will report out in next few months

**Mutual Housing** : no report

**Hartford 2000:** 50 people came to a recent discussion of community economic development. This Thursday there will be a meeting with the developers of Park and Main. Will follow up with impacted NRZs in March. All invited to general meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 5:00 at offices at 79 Van Block Avenue

**No Subcommittee reports**

**Announcements:** there are job opportunities on the City's website, most especially census workers. Accuracy is critical for city to get right level of funding and support. Having city residents who know the city could help with that.

Trinfo Café free resume writing workshop. Free but need to register ahead of time at [trinfocafehartford@gmail.com](mailto:trinfocafehartford@gmail.com) Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> noon – 1:30

Ground Zero Call to Action. A Community Discussion about Overdose Prevention: 2/26 at 6:00pm at 673 Park Street