

Frog Hollow



Neighborhood Revitalization Zone

July 16, 2019 Minutes Presented by Cary Wheaton

Attendees: Steve Balcanoff, MaryLee Morrison, Janice Castle, Cary Wheaton, Joe Barber, Marion Griffin, Lee McLean-Houle, Aaron Gill, Melvyn Colon, Dan Kiernan, Arianna Basche, Julie Ann Robinson, Robin Deutsch, Barry Kriesberg, Tamara Cunningham, Melvyn Colon, Lt. A. Ramos, Officer Pino, Jesus Lopez, Naomi Ngoma, Mary Falvey, Denese Mitchell, Shanlya Davies, Keonte Little, Tiffanie Barrett, Marlana Marti, Gannon Long

Meeting convened at 5:40 p.m. by Aaron Gill

June minutes approved

Hartford Police Department

- Officer Pino has new hours. Now working Tuesdays through Saturdays. Introduced Officer Ramos who he is training.
- Bust few weeks with July 4th, Riverfront, etc.
- Citywide Part 1 Crimes down 30.2%
- Frog Hollow down 41%
- There was a narcotic bust on Park Street with 4 arrests
- Another sting scheduled this week. Details at next meeting

Hartford Fire Department

- Smoke alarms still available. Encourage renter's insurance
- Frog Hollow June statistics: 162 EMS Calls, 8 Administered Narcan, 4 Hazardous Conditions, 4 Fire Calls

Love Your Block

- Wolcott Mural, Grant Street Community Garden, Benches at Emmanuel Lutheran all completed or on road to completion with community support. Playground and ArtBox should be completed by end of July. Clean up on July 27th. All events listed on their Facebook Page or at loveyourblock@hartford.gov.
- Love Your Block hiring new Americorps Vistas for next year. Apply at my.americorps.gov

City of Hartford

- Putting together a group of representatives from city departments to be able to address properties with reported problems. More aggressive in addressing properties where legal issues, criminality are impacting the health and safety of the neighborhood.
- July 25th 5:30 Comstat meeting at House of Restoration on Main Street. All welcome
- 311: Have had 48 calls from the neighborhood with most involving bulky waste, rodents, overgrown yards, garbage and debris. Using Youth Corps to do some neighborhood outreach about how these issues are interrelated and impact health

- Love Your Block looking for a city campaign which has been done in other Love Your Block cities. Looking to do a mural on Capitol Avenue, under Sigourney Street. Tie it into Clean Hartford/anti-litter campaign. Using same local artist responsible for the Wolcott mural. Expect to be completed this summer. Concerns raised about tagging and lighting. Can Capitol Avenue cameras be extended to cover mural? Comments that it is important for mural to reflect diversity in community. Reach out to Julie Ann if you are interested in helping plan/execute.

Greater Hartford Harm Reduction

Hartford has the highest rate of opiate deaths in the state, Frog Hollow has the highest rate in the City. Hartford Hospital wants to collaborate with other institutions and service non-profits to address the issue by trying to keep people safe even if they are not ready/able to quit. Looking to open a center in the neighborhood, potentially manned by medical students, to bring services to individuals. There is currently a drop-in center manned by Mark Jenkins and staff at 557 Albany Avenue. Center has had 1000s of visits in past year. Looking to open another site in the heart of the epidemic. Possible sites are the former WIC Center at Park and Hungerford, or the previous grocery at Park and Lawrence. Looking for funding across lots of entities. Have support of mayor, police and fire chiefs. Thanks, from the committee for all the hard work. Mark welcome at future meetings to be on agenda and discuss progress/support needed

Membership/Bylaws

- Our Bylaws require more resident members than Frog Hollow Institutions. Currently there are 10 resident committee members and 6 Institutions. Lee and MaryLee would like to suggest requiring 50% attendance at meetings to maintain membership as it is hard to engage if folks rarely come. Should we use mailing list to inform members of new requirements. Does this necessitate a change in Bylaws? Other ways to engage people and identify members. Nametags?
- There was a long discussion of membership requirements and how to move forward. Also, a concern that Hartford Library and Hartford Hospital have been attending regularly and waiting to join the NRZ Committee decided on following steps:
- E Mail to all members, asking if they remain interested in remaining on the committee and suggesting that attendance requirements for all members might be coming. Lee and MaryLee to write, Aaron to edit/approve, Lee to send out
- Everyone committed to reading the Bylaws by August meeting. They are on the website
- Next meeting vote on membership for Hartford Hospital and Hartford Library, assuming makeup of committee allows after member responses
- Put discussion of membership attendance expectations on next Agenda
- Check with Barbara S. McGrath, Executive Director of Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative, Inc. who advises NRZs on whether these expectations modify the Bylaws are in another form
- Once this is completed there needs to be a real discussion about recruiting new resident members, particularly renters. Ideas generated: online survey, childcare, food, larger issue focused meetings

Hartford 2000: new name is Hartford Next. Marion handed out business cards with new name.

Anyone interested in get out the vote initiative (primary is in September) should contact Hartford Next. Make sure to fill out census as it impacts resources coming to neighborhood. Census is still looking for temporary workers.

Traffic: there are changes coming to parking on Capitol Avenue, from Lawrence to Park Terrace. The street will be painted with lines and 2-hour meters at \$1.00 installed. HPA also committed to enforcement and promises of revenue collected going to neighborhood improvements. First step in prohibiting all day State workers parking in neighborhood, impacting businesses and residents.

7:40 Meeting adjourned