

Frog Hollow

Neighborhood Revitalization Zone

Meeting minutes of November 19, 2019

Presented by Cary Wheaton

Attendees: Steve Balcanoff, Janice Castle, Cary Wheaton, Joe Barber, Marion Griffin, Aaron Gill, Melvyn Colon, Chris Brown, Fernando Betancourt, Ron Peaslee, Officer Pino, Lt. Santiago, Graciela Rivera, Jane Peters, Sarah Delvale, Nathan Hood, Madeleine Hyker, Paige Berschet, Catherine Marx, Robin Deutsch, Yvette Williams, Terry Waller, Gannon Long, Lynda Laureano

HPD: Reminded the NRZ of the potential siting of an Opioid Center on or near Park Street. Aaron reminded the committee that the NRZ has voiced our support of this initiative at past meeting. The concept has passed the Human Services Committee of the City Council.

- Part 1 Crimes are down 37% in the Southwest District, which includes Frog Hollow.
- 0 Burglaries in past 28 days
- 1 Firearm and narcotics arrest on Babcock Street
- Shooting on Putnam Street
- Narcotics arrest on Lawrence Street
- Request to bring traffic enforcement data to next NRZ meeting, particularly any regarding corner of Capitol and Broad and Park and Park Terrace intersections.

HFD

- Reminder to check smoke detectors and call HFD if you would like a new one installed for free.
- Season for portable heaters. Remember: no extension cords, turn off when out of room or sleeping, keep 3 feet away from curtains & furniture, use ones with automatic shut off if the heater tips over.
- 161 Frog Hollow EMS calls in October, 2 Rescue calls, 3 Narcan Administrations, 1 Fire, 21 False Fire Calls, 27 Service Calls

Love Your Block: Paige introduced new Vista Madeleine Hyker. Still searching for one other VISTA candidate. First year 5 volunteer led projects were funded by grant dollars. Hoping for at least that many this year.

City of Hartford

- Hartford Services Resident Guide now out. Also available in Spanish and on line December 15th.
- Plastic bag ban begins in city. Be aware when shopping to bring your reusable bags. Pink textile recycling bags have been distributed. They are picked up on your regular trash day.
- Holiday Bazaar for local craftspeople. City Hall 12/11, 12/12, 12/13
- Citywide Toy Event: City Hall 12/14

Census: Job Fair this Thursday at the Hartford Public Libraries. Downtown branch 9:30- 11:30, Park Library: 12:30 – 2:30. Catherine will come to future NRZ to discuss census

December 17th NRZ meeting will be a holiday celebration as well. Sign-up sheet for potluck was distributed.

South Green NRZ merge: We are invited to a December 4th meeting to discuss the potential merge of the South Green NRZ into geographically connected NRZ's in order to insure a voice for the community. There are many legal steps, a potential appearance before City Council and changes to our Strategic Plan. Joe suggested contacting David Corrigan about historical precedents on this as well as Tony Cherolis. It would seem to make sense that the Frog Hollow NRZ would represent Park Street up to south downtown and possibly Barnett Park. This would include the new development by Spinnaker at Park and Main. Marion will forward the email correspondence regarding this that she has received.

51 – 53 Colonial Street: Ms. Yvette Williams appeared to request support for her plan to construct a commercial kitchen in the basement of her owner occupied 3 family. She would utilize this kitchen for production only to service her To Your Health vegan food truck, as well as healthy food educational programs and creating comprehensive and natural answers to addiction. There are zoning issues about accessory use and the direct connection to a dwelling unit. After spirited debate, the NRZ determined that the committee did not have the expertise to address zoning policy, leaving that to Planning and Zoning. Ms. Williams also has many hurdles to address before plan completion, including with the Fire Department and the Health Department. The NRZ voted to write a letter of support for this homebased food business, contingent upon Ms. Williams gaining support from her abutters. Three NRZ members abstained to avoid any conflict of interest: Janice Castle from the City, Aaron Gill and Melvyn Colon who sit on the Planning and Zoning Commission. The NRZ wished Ms. Williams luck and invited her to keep attending NRZ meetings.

Hartford NEXT:

- Marion shared internship opportunities for the Get Out the Vote/Get Out the Count Project
- A group of Hartford NEXT members, including Marion, have drafted language to encourage property owners and businesses to maintain their properties. It has been shared with all the NRZ's. It still needs to be translated into Spanish. Gannon suggested contacting the Center for Latino Progress for that service.
- Hartford NEXT and the Frog Hollow still needs someone for keeping up organization's website.
- Thanks from the NRZ to Marion for the hard work she does on Hartford NEXT.

By- Laws and Membership: MaryLee created a MOU for NRZ members. Please look them over. To be discussed in January

Employment Opportunities for Residents: To be put on January agenda

Announcements:

Upcoming Trinfo Events, Free and Open to Public:

November 20th 4:30 – 5:30 Café Con Leche – stories of Transgender Women in Mexico

November 20th 8:00pm Democratic Debate Watch Party

November 22nd 5:30 – 7:00PM Afghan Culture Night : Free food, music, dance

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.