

Frog Hollow

Neighborhood Revitalization Zone

September 17, 2019 minutes

Attendance: Steve Balcanoff, Aaron Gill, Mary Lee Morrison, Ronald Peasley, Dan Kiernan, LT. Jesus Lopez, Joe Barber, Julie Ann Robinson, Paige Berchet, Christopher Brown, Janice Castle, LT. Obdulio Santiago, Officer Steven Pino Barry Kriesberg, Arianna Basche, Robin Deutsch, Fernando Betancourt, Naomi Ngoma, Armindo Games, Melvyn Colon, Steve Yenke, Gary Bazzano, John Prescod, Kenneth Beardsley, Carey Shea, Janette Williams, Gladys Brooks, Joan Biggs, Chuck Shimkus, Pastor Paula Mehmel, Jane Wunder, Graciela Rivera

Review of Minutes from August's meeting. Fernando made the motion to approve, Joe seconded, motion passed.

I. Updates:

- A. **HPD** – Officer Pino presented the crime statistics, with most showing reductions city-wide and in the neighborhood. There were two recent shooting near the Beanpot and at Russ and Lawrence. Q = A followed. LT Santiago gave a tip regarding not leaving the wheel lock keys in glove compartments when the car is not in use. Access to the keys in unlocked cars has led to the theft of tires and rims.
- B. **HFD** – LT. Lopez gave statistics for HFD responses. He gave a reminder on getting free smoke detectors and urged people to get renter's insurance citing some examples of recent fires in apartment buildings.
- C. **Love Your Block** – Julie Ann and Paige gave updates on their projects including the mural on the viaduct on Capital Avenue.
- D. **City of Hartford** – Janice's report included information on milling and paving projects, the mayor's Town Hall, and HPD recruiting. On Dec. 9, City Hall will host local vendors /crafters who will be selling for the holiday season. There will also be another city-wide toy drive. Q + A followed, particularly around 3-1-1 calls. All calls and voice-mails are logged and responses are given as quickly as possible. Grace, from the Office of Sustainability reported on the rain barrel distribution and sign ups, and an upcoming sustainability event at City Hall. Mingo, from the Parking Authority gave updates on the changes instituted on Capitol, between Lawrence and Columbia. With changes, there is a warning period for violators, before enforcement. There was some discussion of street parking and the impact of parking 3 feet from a driveway vs 5 feet. This has been looked at, but decisions are always based on safety.

II. Presentations

- A. **United Way** – John discussed ALICE saves (start savings plans – with some free money available) and Trusted Advisor (weekly contact with help on budgeting) opportunities through the United Way – call them.
- B. **Emanuel Lutheran Church and 315 Capitol Avenue project** – Pastor Paula, Jane, and Chuck reviewed some history of the church and property and spoke of their desire to

remove the building and develop a pass through drive that would enhance the safety of the drop off and pick up of children in a day care and elderly services, both at Capitol Towers. They were looking at getting a letter of support for their project. A lengthy discussion followed discussing appreciation for the community work from the church, the concerns of taking down properties with historical significance, and the extreme expense to rehabilitate properties. Fernando made a motion to: Write a letter in opposition of demolishing the house at 315 Capitol with the caveat that this issue can be reconsidered when more information is provided. The FHNRZ would like to note that its philosophy is to preserve historic properties whenever possible.

A vote was taken. 5 members approved the motion. 4 members abstained.

III. Time did not permit for full committee reports, so they were postponed the meeting adjournment – 7:45

Minutes prepared and submitted by Steve Balcanoff