



Meeting minutes of January 21, 2020

Attendance: Steve Balcanoff, Aaron Gill, Mary Lee Morrison, Ronald Peasley, Dan Kiernan, LT. Jesus Lopez, Joe Barber, Paige Berchet, Christopher Brown, Janice Castle, LT. Obdulio Santiago, Officer Jeff Gonzalez, Barry Kriesberg, Arianna Basche, Fernando Betancourt, Graciela Rivera, Rose Croog, Keith Rapoza, Frank Dellaripa, Marcus Ordonez, Valerie Carrier, Greg Secord, Lizzie Crespan, Minnie Gonzalez, Marisol Monserrate, Madeleine Hykes, Patrick Doyle, Jean King, Marion Griffin,

Aaron opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions at 5:40.

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

1. Updates:

- a. HPD – Officer Gonzalez and Lt. Santiago reported the crime #s. There have been a number of Shots Fired, mostly during evening hours. One shooting took place, 40 seconds after a “wagon train” of patrol cars passed by a site on Park Street. A Rapid Response unit to respond to Shots Fired incidents. There have been increases in the number of parking tickets issued in response to neighbor complaints. Car thefts are down, but it appears most of these are attributed to the same 6 kids who get arrested and are then out within hours, turned over to their parents.
- b. HFD – LT. Lopez reported that an assessment team made up of people from different states came to assess HFD for the purpose of accreditation. Expect an official announcement in March that HFD will become the first accredited department in CT. Lt Lopez then gave the yearly statistics comparing Frog Hollow with the rest of the city.
- c. Love Your Block – Madeleine and Janice shared a rendering of a mural to be considered for the underpass (Capital/Park Terrace) coming into the neighborhood. Feedback on the design was given. Painting is planned for April 8-10. Plans for the current year were discussed with applications distributed.
- d. City of Hartford – Janice reported on the process to report sidewalks that have not been cleared of snow (3-1-1) and the city's response DPW will visit sites and if property owners don't comply a \$99/day fine will be issued. She reminded us of the plastic bag ban that is in effect for large stores and will be in effect for small businesses in June.

2. Presentations

- a. Sigourney Street Roundabout – Frank and Keith presented a rendering of the plan. It is expected that construction will begin late summer /early fall 2020. The plan does not incorporate bike lanes, which will be incorporated in DOT work when the replace the bridge on Sigourney leading to the roundabout. Members requested that Frank, Keith, and DOT be reminded that there are many bikers

and pedestrians in the neighborhood and their considerations should not be lost with planning for auto traffic.

- b. Bylaws and Membership – Mary Lee presented her recommendations from her committee that a Memorandum of Agreement be signed by any new member, stating the intent to attend 50% of the yearly meetings, and notification to the Chair, should they no longer find themselves able to participate. After some discussion and a check on the current membership list, it was determined that there was room for new organizational members as well as resident members. Joe made a motion to approve Barry, representing Hartford Hospital, and Graciela, representing the Park Street Branch of the Hartford Public Library as new voting members. Marion seconded the motion. Motion passed. Marion then made a motion to approve new resident members, Rose, Marcus, and Valerie. Joe seconded the motion. The motion passed. We now have 5 new voting members.
 - c. Employment Opportunities – Steve reported only modest progress has been made with SINA's Walk to Work program and the city's Working City Challenge. Refocus is necessary.
3. Subcommittees:
- a. I-84 – Aaron reported that plans are on a "pause." The benefit of this may be with new leadership and opportunity to rethink plans that have been developed.
 - b. Hartford Next – Marion Shared information about the Census 2020 work being done. There will be a couple of training sessions for census jobs at HPL, on February 8 (11:00-12:30), and February 11 (5:30-7:00). There will also be efforts to educate and motivate young adults encouraging them to participate. HPL is a good source of information and updates. Marion also stated that if anyone knows of opportunities to have tables advertising the census, at future events, connect with Marion, Hartford Next, or HPL.
 - c. Property Development – no report
 - d. Traffic Circulation – no report

Announcements:

- ◆ Aaron thanked Carrie and Forge City Works for their hospitality and support.
- ◆ Marisol and Minnie spoke of concern for the site selection for the discussed opioid treatment program. Both acknowledged the need for a center, but have concerns with the effect on the neighborhood. This will be part of February's agenda.
- ◆ Patrick identified a number of programs/projects at Knox Park Foundation.
- ◆ Arianna let people know that Trinfo Café will be a VITA site for free tax preparation.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 made by Joe

SB