

University Neighborhood Partnership
Meeting minutes
November 17, 2008

Members Present:

- Institutional Representatives: Beth Rougeux (SU), Scott Blair (ESF), Win Thurlow (Upstate)
- Neighborhood Resident Representatives: Joe Russo (SEUNA-Westcott/West), Mark Strodel (Sherman Park), Barbara Humphrey (WENA-Westcott/East)
- Investor-Owners: Norm Roth (Sherman Park), Paul Walsh (Westcott west), Hugh Gregg (Westcott east)
- Students: Tefan Drayton (SU)

Members Absent:

- Institutional Members: Barbara Karper (LeMoyne)
- City Representative (Fernando Ortiz)
- Neighborhood Resident Representatives: Melanie Stopyra (Outer Comstock)
- Investor-Owners: Pat Pfohl (Outer Comstock)
- Students: Tefan Drayton (SU), representatives from LeMoyne, ESF and Upstate Medical University

Others Present: Chris Merchant, SU students from Chris' class

Chris Merchant, a Maxwell Professor in the Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict (PARC) has offered to serve as UNP facilitator. Chris introduced herself and the students in attendance, and described how her facilitation of the UNP is a win/win situation. Her experience and expertise are needed if the UNP is going to function this year, and Chris is glad to have an opportunity for her students to observe facilitation in a real life situation. We thanked Scott Blair for being able to provide such a great room for our meeting. UNP members also introduced themselves to Chris.

Chris suggested that we get some organizational business out of the way. The first had to do with meeting dates/times. It was agreed that we would stay with the third Monday beginning in January, 2009, and meet on December 9 in December. Our 2009 meeting dates are: 1/19, 2/16, 3/16, 4/20, 5/18, 8/17, with June and July off. It was further agreed that we would stay with the 5:30 meeting start time, and agree to meet from 5:30 to 7 pm. Unfortunately, that time may not work with the Outer Comstock appointee due to her child care responsibilities. Barb will contact her, and it may be necessary for OCNA to appoint another representative.

In terms of membership, concern with non-attendance by the City representative was also discussed, and Win Thurlow offered to follow up with the City, since we feel that it is essential that we have representation from City government. The institutions that have not yet appointed a student rep (Upstate, ESF) were asked to please do so, and the status of the LeMoyne student rep, who was appointed but did not attend, will also be looked into.

To facilitate communication, the names and emails of all UNP members will be listed on the minutes (see below).

Next, Chris suggested that we look at the ground rules, as spelled out in the 3/19/08 document. This document was reviewed and accepted by the UNP membership as our rules of engagement. Chris did note that she is committed to consensus and will work with us to reach consensus.

We discussed the process of getting information out to our constituents, since last year it felt to some of us as if UNP was operating in a secretive way. It was agreed that we should be selectively engaging in communication with the groups that appointed us to inform them of what UNP is addressing and soliciting ideas to bring back to UNP from them. Minutes will continue to be posted on the Syracuse OGCR web site, however we may keep separate notes of discussions that remain within the group. We all agreed that we need to be careful about communicating decisions and recommendations from UNP if they have not been adopted by the entire group.

We agreed that we need to get on with our work, and for that to happen, we need to develop a plan for what issues we will address. The document that was produced last year, *Developing a Strategic Plan Relative to Issues Related to Density in the University Area* Executive Summary, listed six recommendations. We looked those over and discussed where we should start. There appeared to be interest in beginning with the Health & Safety recommendation. In addition to prioritizing the recommendations, we realized that we will need to read the larger document in order to understand the issues behind the recommendations.

Therefore, our homework is to read the entire plan and rank the recommendations in terms of priority for discussion. We should come prepared to discuss the Health and Safety recommendation, although our rankings may give that recommendation a lower priority.

The University Neighborhood Service Agreement Advisory Committee (UNSAAC) was now meeting to accept and review applications for the annual service agreement funds paid by SU to the city every year to address neighborhood issues and concerns related to the presence of the university in adjacent to the neighborhood. UNSAAC is looking at the proposals for full funding of the Neighborhood Safety Patrol and also expanded code enforcement for the neighborhood. Barbara H. sits on the UNSAAC committee, and she will report what she can about the status of these proposals at the next meeting.

Meeting Review

The following was the review of the meeting:

Positive

Set a schedule
Goals and objectives

Negative

Interrupting
Cell phones going off

Minutes issue settled
Productive
Talked about issues
No disagreements
Framework achieved
Tasks assigned

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 9 at 5:30 at ESF. Scott needs to hear from anyone needing a parking pass.

UNP Member Names and E-Mail Addresses

Scott Blair
Tefan Drayton
Hugh Gregg
Barbara Humphrey
Barbara Karper
Chris Merchant
Fernando Ortiz
Patrick Pfohl
Norm Roth
Beth Rougeux
Joe Russo
Brenda Silverman
Mark Strodel
Win Thurlow
Paul Walsh