

University Neighborhood Partnership
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2009

Members Present:

- Institutional Representatives: Barbara Karper (LeMoyne), Beth Rougeux (SU), Sharon Sherman (Syracuse City – for Fernando Ortiz)
- Neighborhood/ Resident Representatives: Mark Strodel (Sherman Park), Joe Russo (SEUNA/ Westcott – West)
- Investor/ Property Owners: Norm Roth (Berry Park), Hugh Gregg (Westcott – East), Pat Pfohl (Outer Comstock)
- Other: Christina Merchant, 2 SU Students from Chris' class

Members Absent:

- Scott Blair (Institutional Rep –ESF), Giselle Guadalupe (Student Rep – ESF), Brenda Silverman (Outer Comstock), Barbara Humphrey (WENA/ Westcott – East), Win Thurlow (Institutional Rep – Upstate), Paul Walsh (Westcott – West), Student Reps from SU, LeMoyne, and Upstate

Corrections for minutes from January 19, 2009: The decision regarding the code enforcement proposal and application to UNSAAC did not occur at UNP meeting, but at the SEUNA meeting; misspelling of Dave Mankiewicz.

Health & Safety Issues: Snow Removal

Discussion began with how to organize the group around the proposal submitted last meeting. A suggestion was made to address the issue of snow removal and some concerns about the proposal before moving on, the goal being to have a full picture of what is to be decided. The group briefly discussed selecting a process to use to get a full hearing from all members on the subject. Questions about the documents mailed out prior to the meeting were answered (The B.I.D. process, By-laws for Crouse/ Marshall BID, Snow Removal Comparison Chart) and a suggestion was made to look at a BID more comprehensive than just snow removal. One member raised an issue regarding the proposal presented 1/19/09 and clarified that it wasn't with the snow removal portion, but with the alternative dispute resolution aspect.

Clarification was needed for the group regarding the scope of the BID – the group agreed not to look at a city-wide solution, but rather a local/ neighborhood area. Also, Sharon Sherman explained a pilot BID is not an option – the law is all or nothing. The group discussed a BID in a pilot area and the cost/ resources required. A suggestion was made to contract/ hire someone to do plowing for a pilot. The group discussed the suggestion, the similarity to a co-op, and the possibility of gathering a group of investors to go in together to cover cost.

The group solidified 3 local ideas for the health & safety issue of snow removal and posed some preliminary questions/ concerns for each.

1. A local BID

UNP discussed questions on the BID process, Board structure/ terms, and possible community opposition. Fifty-one percent of the community must consent. The group stated that the larger the district, the more affirmative responses are likely.

- What would it include? (e.g. just snow removal or include clean-up in summer, leaves)
- How to get non-owner occupants vote?
- How to calculate the assessment/ pay formula for non-owner occupants?

- What services to include for non-owner occupants?
- Who would run it?
- Could UNP set it up?
 - Hugh Gregg stated he has the law regarding entities able to establish BIDs and will provide it
 - The group posed the possibility of petitioning the County Legislature to pass a law to allow UNP to create a BID
 - Sharon Sherman offered John Black as a resource for assistance in learning requirements for BIDs and what residences can establish

2. A voluntary program

Community members would voluntarily contribute funds needed to remove snow in a designated area. This option is much like a co-op.

- Who pays for it?
- Who controls it?

3. A pilot program

A grant would fund a contracted individual/ group to remove the snow in a designated area.

- Where to apply for a grant?
- Who would write it?
- What is the likelihood of receiving a grant?
- Who controls it?

A suggestion was made to obtain a grant for a pilot while simultaneously establishing a BID.

The group discussed how to best move forward and make a decision.

Decision: Group members agreed to organize any questions for each option in preparation for the next meeting, March 16, 2009.

Group was advised to determine a goal/ objective and ascertain concerns/ needs/ fears at the next meeting. Chris Merchant suggested Interest Based Problem Solving (IBPS) for the next meeting and described steps included in the process. The group discussed ensuring a group consensus and not moving too quickly towards a decision. Clarification was made regarding consensus – it does not include the agreement of interest groups and City Council, but only the members of UNP.

A request was made to consider other issues besides snow removal. Other health & safety issues include trash removal, crime, lighting, and code enforcement.

Decision: The group agreed to focus on snow removal for now and to get to a tangible result before moving on to other areas.

Student Representatives

Beth Rougeux – SU student rep is not following through, states he will attend but does not arrive
 Barbara Karper – LeMoyne is struggling to find a student rep

The group discussed what to do since there are only two meetings left for students to attend this school year. Members suggested no longer seeking a stable, permanent student, but get feedback/ input other ways.

Next Meeting

- Come prepared
- Information sharing
- Express concerns
- Propose options & flow
- Create a work-plan once consensus reached
- Make it clear what UNP is trying to accomplish (Why UNP is talking about snow removal)

Meeting Review

Positive

- None

Opportunities for Growth

- Send meeting reminder 1 weeks prior to meeting (sooner than this past time)
- Send out minutes immediately and again just before meeting
- Better if everyone's healthy
- Need better meeting attendance
- Send questions before meeting