



NHNC Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2014, Willard Elementary School

Convened at 6:30 p.m. by Jeff Zabinski

Guests: Candace Mumm – City Council, Doug Strosahl - SPD

Introductions:

Feb. NHNC and Emerson-Garfield meeting minutes passed around.

Police Update – Doug Strosahl reporting.

~ 80% of his time has been spent in the North Hill area so far in 2014. A problem house on N. Adams previously boarded up, has been opened up again. Violent crime in the city is down 11% overall. Property crimes are down almost 14%. Two vehicle theft hot spots have been identified in our area – one at Garland/Maple, the other north of Shadle. Vehicle prowlings are also up – between Division and Maple, from Garland to Wellesley. Northwest section of town is down 50% in violent crimes. Seven day property crime is up 3%, mainly from vehicle activity. Down for the 28 day totals though.

Q: are vehicle prowlers local residents or transients? A: could be squatters. It is mainly a crime of opportunity. Q: are there a lot of gangs in our area? A: SWAT went out today. It was a big operation involving 39 people in multiple state hits at the same time, possibly gang related. Q: spring is bringing extremely loud car stereos. Is this enforceable? A: it's a misdemeanor ticket. Calling Crime Check is recommended. Houses are easier to enforce than mobile sources because of the definition of "victim." Duration of the noise is the key for the current noise ordinance. It's easier if it's the same car every day. The importance of calling in nuisance calls was stressed. A record of multiple complaints is helpful.

No officer re-assignments are currently planned for this area for this summer.

Community Assembly – Sandy Gill reporting.

Firefighters want to attend a meeting and talk about what they do and what they need. Could bring their 1936 fire engine. Chief was at the CA meeting. A flyer about our NHNC station was passed around.

Ombudsman wants to attend a meeting and review the 2013 report in the next few months.

Information on the CD block grants continues to come in. At the federal level, they don't want to do the 10 year survey anymore. A random sampling phone survey has been proposed instead. Meetings are scheduled between now and the end of May on the issue. CD "pocket" areas could result from using this method instead of the current neighborhood areas. CD leadership quarterly meeting will review the five year action plan. 5 areas are being considered.

Randy Marler attended the public safety meeting as the NHNC rep. He reports a graffiti awareness pamphlet is being together. Ordinance language is being drafted on how many undamaged can be kept on a property. Discussion followed on junk car definitions. Questions were raised on what the actual hazards are – visual impact, oil and grease soil contamination, animal/vermin/insect shelters, easement blockages, and accessible trunks were mentioned. Question was raised about the definition of collector cars and personal property rights. Front yard storage vs. back yard storage and the possible use of fencing was questioned.

Council Update – Candace Mumm reporting.

She just attended the Emerson-Garfield planning meeting. Candace suggested that greater coordination is needed with the Garland Business District. An area tour has been completed. Could this area be a next city improvement emphasis region?

Red light money will be kept for traffic calming efforts. Federal funds and improvements money may be possibilities as well. Getting Ken Pelton to a meeting was suggested. NHNC reported they have heard very little additional information on the planning effort. A meeting is scheduled for next Wed. Improved lighting was suggested as a development effort.

A school walking safety summit is being put together. A walking assessment audit will be done, with the results possibly being tied to planning efforts. Health indexes of neighborhoods have been done. West Central was somewhat low. Walkability scores are being done too.

Q: can CDBG tree fund be used for tree pruning and sidewalk repairs under trees? A: unknown what the exact rules are for this.

Community Development – Buzz Bellessa reporting.

Sidewalk installation from the 300 block to 900 block of W. Lacrosse has been proposed.

Land Use – Buzz Bellessa reporting.

Developers Agreement for 1030 W. Courtland will be voted on by Emerson-Garfield next month, and then both neighborhoods will vote on a final version. A community garden was proposed for the property. About 2 acres of the bluff on upper Courtland has been purchased by the tribe. It will be kept in a native/natural state.

Traffic – Mike Flahaven reporting.

A traffic calming sidewalk bump-out proposal has been proposed for Garland & Lincoln – Rocket Bakery crosswalk area. Putting a bench and bike rack there are possibilities too.

The radar speed signs for at Garland/Stevens and Garland/Madison seem to have been approved.

The store at Post & Garland has reportedly been purchased and a restaurant and training center may be put there.

Applications for portable radar sign locations are being sought. Wall/Queen has had lots of accidents and was suggested. Question was raised on if there was sufficient room for a sign there. Monroe/Heroy was requested by the school district. Queen at Franklin Park was suggested.

Clean-Up – Mike Flahaven reporting.

Spring event is a go for April 12th. Haz Waste drop-off was requested. \$800 cost for the 4 hours. There is a conflict for the service on that date so the fall might be better though. A curbside trash pick-up by appointment has been added this time. Only limited types of materials are allowed. 80 pounds is the max. A draft of the flyer/mailer was passed around. There will be no appliance pick-up this time. City was unwilling to extend the dump pass usage time window. Usage is only at 50% overall, but the NHNC numbers are higher.

Other Business:

Q: when is the rest stop fund raiser? A: unsure – sometime in May. Volunteers and cookie makers will be needed.

Dog poo disposal bags dispenser bags for areas such as the parks were proposed as a project.

Q: could the clean-up work crew work along the bluff? A: maybe, but it would probably have to a separate event.

IMPORTANT! Next month's meeting has to be a week earlier – April 3rd - because of the spring break school closure.

Adjournment: 8:36 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 3, 2014, 6:30 p.m., Willard Elementary

Minutes submitted by Daniel Fears, NHNC Secretary. Corrections and additions welcome.

NHNC Meeting Attendees – March 10, 2014

Jeff Zabinski – Chair

Mike Flahaven – Officer at Large

Daniel Fears – Secretary/Treasurer

Sandy Gill

Buzz Bellessa

Kristen Speller

Elvira Albers

Doug Strosahl

Candace Mumm