



## **North Hill Neighborhood Council Meetings Notes for September 10, 2015 at Willard School**

Attended by Mike Flahaven, Teresea Van Dyke, Dale (?), Holly Renga, Bonnie Stewart, Jeff Zabinski, Dan Fears, Carrie Ferran, Melissa Wittstruck, Diane A., Sandy Gill, and Buzz Bellessa. Jeff Z. began the meeting at 6:32 p.m. People introduced themselves. Teresea recorded the notes. Representatives from the police department and the city council did not appear.

### **Community Development (CBDG) – Buzz Bellessa**

- North Hill's 2015 funds are being used to fund two blocks of sidewalks on W. Lacrosse Ave.
- North Hill is exploring using its 2016 funds with the Emerson-Garfield neighborhood to create a gateway on N. Monroe St. at W. Cora Ave. The ability for two or more neighborhoods to partner on a project is a new and unprecedented opportunity and may allow neighborhoods to complete bigger projects than they could on their own. Two issues at the Monroe & Cora location are water runoff and the gateway. The two neighborhoods will dialogue with the city. If the gateway is found not to be a viable project, alternative projects are a Farmer's Market at W. Garland Ave. & N. Post St., rehabilitation of the amphitheater at Shadle Park or completion of sidewalks on Lacrosse. Buzz will get more information about the Farmer's Market project from Rob Bryceson. We foresee no conflict of interest with the neighborhood partnering with the Monroe Street gateway project or the Gathering House. Melissa indicated that the amphitheater already has 2016 general funding. North Hill could also partner with other neighborhoods on projects highlighted in the North Hill Neighborhood Plan.
- Sidewalks are a low priority because matching funds are no longer available, so very little sidewalk could be installed. Nonetheless sidewalks are integral to the North Hill Neighborhood Plan, including at Franklin Park. North Hill will pursue other funding sources for sidewalks, such as traffic calming funds. Park maintenance may be a resource for resolving tripping hazards in walkways at Franklin Park.
- Buzz moved to use 2016 funds to continue our dialogue with the Emerson-Garfield neighborhood and the city for the gateway project and water runoff issue. Sandy seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously with 11 neighbors voting yes and zero neighbors voting no. The application for the project is due in November. This and other project options will be included in a "menu" of ideas offered by other neighborhoods that will alert city departments of new developments.
- Cell phone tower rules are undergoing development by the city. Neighborhoods and industry have clashed over various provisions of a proposed ordinance. Issues include neighborhood "standing," how and when neighborhoods will receive notice of proposed development, distances between towers and adjacent properties and the prioritization of properties on which towers could be erected. A moratorium that was enacted by the city council earlier in 2015 may be extended. The planning commission has a draft ordinance to send to the city council. A separate proposal regarding neighborhood notification & "standing" to improve neighborhood awareness of land use proposals will go before the city council.



#### **Land Use – Mike Flahaven**

- A “group living situation” is present at 4208/4210 N. Madison St., where a number of felons are living. It is unknown if the use is permitted conditionally or outright. Melissa will discuss the issue with the planning department.
- The traffic calming project at Garland & Lincoln, a sidewalk bump out, is out to bid. The project may be completed in 2015 or 2016, depending on weather.
- Spring 2016 is the next date for new traffic calming projects. North Hill has proposed improvements at W. Garland Ave. & N. Stevens St. that include (1) two bulb outs, (2) a marked crosswalk and (3) crosswalk signing. The city and the school district (81) support the project.
- North Hill contributed \$200 to the Garland Street Fair.
- The neighborhood cleanup is scheduled for October 10. We will have three clean-green dumpsters, will offer dump passes and will coordinate large furniture pickup.
- The neighborhood has experienced some difficulties accessing Willard School for its meetings. Dan moved to hold the next three neighborhood council meetings (Oct., Nov. and Dec.) at the Gathering House at 733 W. Garland Ave. Buzz seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously with 11 neighbors voting yes and zero neighbors voting no. Meeting details will be provided by Carrie, who will follow up with the Gathering House. 2016 neighborhood council meeting locations will need to be confirmed for either Willard School or the Gathering House.

#### **Staff Liaison – Melissa Wittstruck**

- One Greening Grant was approved for the North Hill.
- The Residential Tree Program has a new process this fall.
- The city is developing a guidebook for residents wanting to get involved in planning processes.
- The Planning Commission is working on amendments to the ordinance dealing with the abandoned property registry for better compliance by the financial industry. One problem is properties becoming “stuck” in the foreclosure process and becoming attractive nuisances.
- Remember that code enforcement is a complaint-driven process, so if you don’t complain about a problem in your neighborhood, it will not get the city’s attention.

Jeff Z. adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.