

CSTNA Meeting Agenda

2/13/18

Welcome

- **Ingerman Group (Rodney Court Apartments)**
 - IG renovated Rodney Court Apartments (1100 Pennsylvania Avenue) 17 years ago.
 - One of the first buildings in Wilmington to have an elevator.
 - They would like our support as they go through the application process to renovate the building (cost \$4.5m).
 - All work has to abide by standards set by the Secretary of Interior.
 - Are looking for letters of support from the neighborhood. This is probably something that the CSTNA board could take care of on behalf of the entire neighborhood.
 - **Clara: Motion to support the renovations.**
 - All in favor; none opposed.

- **Fall Festival – CSTNA partnership with City Church**
 - The fall festival was a success, and it shows that there is further room for our neighborhood association to collaborate with local nonprofit and faith organizations.
 - Barbara from City Church stopped by to talk about Easter Festival in the spring.
 - On Saturday, March 31, 2018, City Church will hold its annual Easter Egg hunt in Tilton Park from 10a.m. to noon. Food and games provided.
 - WE NEED YOUR HELP! Volunteer to:
 - oversee games
 - oversee moon bounce
 - help with food

- supply baked goods

- **Parks Redesign Report**

- Sarah Lester from West Side Grows.
- West Side Grows recently collaborated with the city to renovate 3 parks across the west side. Renovations were in response to the West Side revitalization plan.
- **Strategy:** went to the community to see what you all wanted.
- **Funding:** leveraged \$1.2m with City of Wilmington and other funding sources, including \$600k Parks & Recreation grant.
- Completion of Father Tucker expected before the Italian Festival.
- **We've been working for the better part of a year to get the wheels rolling on renovations for Tilton Park and lower Cool Spring Park.**
- **There will be two meetings to discuss proposed renovations to the parks:**
 - Thursday, March 1 from 4:00pm – 5:30pm at Lewis Elementary School (920 N Van Buren St)
 - Thursday, March 1 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm at Mother Africa Union Church (812 N Franklin St)
- Designs by Ground Reconsidered (based out of Philadelphia).
- Some of the funds for park renovations will go toward storm water management.
- We're at the beginning of this process. Could be several years before completion.

- **Ingleside**

- Been vacant for a long time. What is going on with this building?

- Nate Durant had a conversation with Lawrence R. Cessna, President and CEO of Ingleside Homes Inc., who promised to provide CSTNA with weekly updates of the construction schedule.
- Nate has invited him to a neighborhood meeting. We'll see...

- **Park Place**

- Carol and Nate met with Mayor Purzycki in December to discuss the vacant properties on Park Place.
- We've long suspected that these homes were going to be demolished.
- According to the mayor: an LLC owns the properties; they don't like the way they are now; in need of major renovations to bring them up to code. Upon further review, the company concluded that renovation was cost prohibitive. Basically, they want to demolish and rebuild.
- We're a historic district. They can't just demolish. Mayor ensured us that anything they do will have to go through the neighborhood and the city's historic district design review.
- They will present to the neighborhood association at a future date.
- **What is the status on taxes, mortgages?** They do not owe the city any money, so the city can't really take the properties and give them to the landbank.
- **Are these owners who claim that the properties are too run down to restore the same owners who have allowed these properties to deteriorate?** Not sure. Heather Hook has been attempting to trace this. The properties have changed hands multiple times.
- **What's the status of homeless people who are still living within the Park Place properties?** Probably still there.

- **CSTNA Committees**

- Nate suggests that we have enough knowledge and willpower to begin building committee structures within the neighborhood association to

tackle bigger, more complicated problems. The idea was well-received.

Captain Campos

- Police Updates
 - Capt. Campos is taking over for Capt. Kurten, who has moved on to Internal Affairs.
 - WPD is trying to be more transparent. Campos provided this week's CompStat (Comparative Statistics) report to the entire neighborhood association, and CompStat reports will now be available online.
 - Capt. Campos very kindly walked the neighborhood association through the CompStat report, how to read it, etc..
 - Call or text Capt. Campos at (302) 932-0680 to provide any information regarding criminal activity in the neighborhood.

Paul Ford

- Here as a representative of the mayor's office. Please reach out to him on Facebook, including the neighborhood page, if you have any questions.
- Blight is on the mayor's radar. If we form a housing committee, the mayor's office would like to meet in smaller groups to deal effectively with these kinds of issues.

City Council Update - Bud Freel

- Blight Legislation
 - This is not about taking people's property.
 - Made one amendment limiting sheriff sales.
 - Goal is to have inspectors focusing on blighted property. Citations for paint or pointing is a waste of time.
 - He wants us to put together our own list.