

Present: 10 Participants

The meeting began at 6:30 pm

**Al Koproski** inquired about representatives from Metro North, Charter Oak and Spectrum attending the South End NRZ meetings since they are in the South End in these big buildings. **Al** emphasized this would be good PR for both the community and the businesses. Outreach will be done to find out who are the community liaisons that would interact with the community.

**Sue Halpern** mentioned the conversion of the BLT World Headquarters building on Elm Croft Road to 256 apartments with concerns about traffic and parking. Sue stated Elmcroft road is used as a speedway especially to get from Dyke Lane to Canal Street. There was a suggestion of speed bumps to control speeding, but it was emphasized that speed bumps would slow down emergency vehicles and would be a hinderance for snow plowing.

**Captain Tom Barcello** in response to the conversion of the BLT World Headquarters building advised that there was an e-mail response from Ralph Blessing including Sue Halpern explaining the differentiated impact of residential vs commercial with the right to convert the building to 256 apartments. The facility has a parking garage with lots of parking so parking should not be a problem and the garage would also minimize off street parking. In terms of speeding, Captain Barcello mentioned the city is not a big fan of speed bumps so it is unlikely speed bumps will be an alternative to curtail speeding. Complaints from 121 Towne Street were mentioned:

- Lights out around the building.
- Open drug dealing
- Loitering & drinking in the park
- Lack of patrol controlling the streets

**Captain Barcello** answered that BLT turned over several of their buildings to other corporations so complaints would have to be funneled to new management. Captain Barcello stated he is not in charge of patrol as his role has changed to Community Engagement Captain, but he will mention the complaint to the patrol Captain. In terms of drug dealing complaints Captain Barcello emphasized calling in a detailed description of the assailant selling the drugs. Captain Barcello stated that crime has been pretty good throughout the city.

**Irene** brought up two complaints:

- 1). Loud music from Kosciuszko Park on weekends which will probably stop since the summer is over.
- 2). Mikels Landscape is parking trucks in Bender parking lot, and they are starting the truck at 5:00 am 6-days a week and idling. Irene asked if someone could speak to the owner. Captain Barcello explained that if they are not doing construction then the 5:00 am start time is not illegal, but they should not be

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idling for long periods of time. Captain Barcello said he would reach out to the owner, but again stated they can start at any time since they are not in construction.

**John Wooten** inquired about the street deli nears that are currently being used in certain areas of the city to be considered for the South End. Captain Barcello suggested he reach out to Frank Petiste. John also mentioned reaching out to Mike Hyman about the community room and requested an update on the demolition of Lock Works. Terry will get an update on Lock Works and will reach out to Mike Hyman about the community space.

**Question:** Where is the Shelter currently located in the South End community center moving?

**Answer:** The Shelter will be moving its corporate offices to 41 Stillwater Ave but will still maintain the building at 597 Canal Street. The library will be looking at taking the Shelter's vacant space at the South End Community Center.

Lynn Brooks a resident of Harbor point gave an update on 2-long term projects that will take place at the Kosciuszko Park:

- 1). The city has contracted with a landscaping firm to survey major parks in term of invasive species and then look in to having the invasive species removed. Kosciuszko Park is currently full of invasive species.
- 2). Trust for Public Land is a nonprofit that will survey the parks to evaluate what exists and then what is needed.

It was mentioned that Pollinator Pathways continues to do a spectacular job with Kosciuszko Park and that a Blue Light Call System is pending installation in the Kosciuszko Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm