



Northeastern Neighborhood Network (NNN)

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Summary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The NNN meeting began at 5:35 p.m. in the President's Conference Room. The following members were in attendance: Brienne Ahearn (North River Commission) Jack Smith (Hollywood-North Park Community Association and North Park Village Advisory Council) and Dr. Vicki Byard. Representing the University were Interim President Richard Helldobler and Mike Dizon (Chief Communications Officer). They were joined Professor Emerita and Special Assistant to the Interim President Shelley Bannister and Senior Director of Academic and Community Partnerships Kris Pierre.

Member organizations that were absent included: 17th District Police, 39th Ward Alderman's Office, Telshe Yeshiva, Albany Park Neighbors, Albany Park Chamber of Commerce, Albany Park Neighborhood Council, Chicago Korean Chamber of Commerce, Northside Learning Center, Peterson Elementary School, Peterson Pulaski Business and Industrial Council, Volta Elementary School, Von Steuben High School, Northside College Prep and Bohemian National Cemetery.

UNIVERSITY UPDATES

Interim University President Richard Helldobler and Chief Communications Officer Mike Dizon welcomed the group. Unfortunately, due to an emergency, Dr. Suleyma Perez was unable to attend the NNN meeting. Dr. Perez, executive director for government relations at NEIU, had her responsibilities expanded recently by President Helldobler to include community outreach. Moving forward, Dr. Perez, who can be reached at s-perez1@neiu.edu or 773-442-5415, will serve as the liaison between the University and neighborhood. Mike Dizon will step down as NNN chair but will continue at the University, serving in a different capacity.

President Helldobler and Dizon also shared a number of updates from Northeastern.

- **STATE BUDGET:** After two years without one, the state now has a budget, which includes an appropriation for public universities like Northeastern. The budget includes money for FY17, which when added to stop-gap funding received previously, brings us up to the same level as our appropriation in FY15, which was the last time the University received a full appropriation. Our FY18 budget, however, is 10 percent less than FY15, and the state is requiring us to absorb new costs (like some pension costs). It is unclear when the approved funding will arrive.

- RESIDENCE HALLS: Our occupancy numbers for fall are looking good, and we still expect to be at or close to capacity. Additionally, we are encouraged by the 50 percent renewal rate for The Nest as it far exceeds the average 20 percent renewal rate for similar residence halls. The University is beginning the process to put out a Request For Proposal (RFP) for a partner to build a second residence hall on the nearby Bryn Mawr block that Northeastern owns. An RFP does not guarantee the construction of a residence hall, and the Board of Trustees must still consider whether it will choose to move forward on this plan.
- ENROLLMENT: Preliminary data are encouraging. Northeastern has seen an increase in applications, and registration for orientation indicates that we could have a very healthy incoming class this fall.
- SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: Northeastern's 150th Anniversary will kick off its yearlong celebration on NEIU Weekend, Sept. 15-16. Like last year, there will be food, entertainment and activities that are open to all neighbors.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Kris Pierre, Northeastern's senior director of academic and community partnerships, shared a few updates listed below.

- Great Rivers Project: Northeastern faculty and staff played strong support roles in a grant the North River Commission has submitted to the Chicago Community Trust. Gail Ito, Aquatics Coordinator in Campus Recreation, was involved in developing a water-safety component to provide swimming lessons to children from underserved backgrounds and Dr. Alex Peimer, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, played a key role in developing the environmental education training components of the grant application. We are hopeful that even if NRC is not awarded the grant that we can find funding to implement these activities through other sources.
- Deliberative Dialogues: The University has been working for the last two years with the Kettering Foundation to provide Deliberative Dialogue discussions. These discussions are designed to encourage positive interaction and thoughtful discussion between people who are not expected to agree but are encouraged to find a shared direction. We will be providing a comprehensive training session for faculty, staff, and students in this technique this fall. The University wonders if there would be interest in the communities surrounding Northeastern's locations in the next few years in engaging in these types of discussions. We are open to neighbors' thoughts and reactions, knowing this is a longer term project.

NEIGHBORHOOD INFO / OPEN DISCUSSION

- During a roundtable discussion, NNN members shared the following updates:
 - A representative from HNPCA said the community association is in the process of reorganizing and presented its plan on Tuesday, July 11. The plan includes a vision for five subgroups that work through an HNPCA steering committee. The final plan will be presented in the near future. HNPCA is also coordinating a mini pop-up farmers market, which is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 27, September 24 and October 29 at Petersen Elementary School.
 - The North River Commission representative mentioned the North Park Art Walk, which is scheduled for October 6-8, 2017 and will take place along Bryn Mawr Avenue. She also mentioned that NRC's recent Flavors of Albany Park event was a great success and that they are gearing up for next year's event.
 - Dr. Byard, who also attended the July 11 HNPCA meeting, mentioned that one of the five subgroups will focus on education (high school and university). There are plans underway to create a scholarship in the name of Judie Simpson, a former HNPCA president. She also said she sees an opportunity to partner with the new American Indian Center on Kimball.

The NNN meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting of NNN will be scheduled for November.