



Northeastern Neighborhood Network (NNN)

Monday, November 23, 2015

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Summary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting commenced at 6:35 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Thomas Applegate (North River Commission), Vicki Byard (Albany Park neighbor). Representing the University were President Sharon Hahs, Mike Dizon (Chief Communications Officer), University Police Chief Jim Lyons, Kris Pierre (Senior Director of Community and Civic Engagement) and Matt Specht (Dean of Students).

Member organizations that were absent included: Hollywood-North Park Community Association, 17th District Police, 39th Ward Alderman's Office, North Park Village Nature Center, 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

University President Sharon Hahs and Chief Communications Officer Mike Dizon shared a number of updates from Northeastern.

- Impact of State Budget Impasse
 - The University, along with the other public universities in Illinois, has been operating without a state appropriation since July 1 as a result of a budget stalemate between the governor and state legislature.
 - Regardless of the outcome, Northeastern is committed to staying open through the Spring 2016 semester.
 - The University will front all Monetary Award Program grants, which have been on hold due to the impasse, for all those qualified students who demonstrate financial need.

- Facilities
 - Residence Hall: Dean of Students Matt Specht said that the construction of The Nest residence hall, which is being built just south of the Parking Facility, is on schedule and is expected to open in August 2016.

- Pedroso Center Expansion: This expansion of Building B is now complete, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on November 30.
 - Education Building: Plans for this project are currently on hold because the University has not received an appropriation for this year; the governor has put capital projects on hold until a state budget is approved.
- NEIU Community Involvement
- NEIU Block Party: In early October more than 200 people, which included neighbors and other members of the community, attended the University's Block Party, which featured live music, a beer garden, bounce houses for children, food and other items for sale. This will be an annual event.
 - Tall Grass Prairie Burn: The burning of the prairie grass on the Main Campus has been a tradition led by Northeastern's Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences. Due to wet weather, the original and rescheduled dates were cancelled.
 - Civic and Engaged Learning: Kris Pierre discussed a Northeastern initiative to involve students in learning opportunities within the community. She hosted a daylong seminar this month that allowed faculty to share high impact practices.
 - Tree Campus USA: Kris also mentioned Northeastern's efforts to get Tree Campus USA designation for the University to show its commitment to urban forestry.
- Traffic and Parking Study
- This fall, Northeastern made progress with identifying three vendors that have expertise on conducting traffic and parking studies for higher education institutions, thanks to the work of NNN members Vicki Byard, Kris Pierre and Mike Dizon who collaborated with the University's purchasing department.
 - Northeastern will be in a better position to establish the project budget and proceed with the study after it receives a state appropriation.
- Other News
- MSW: The University is gearing up for the launch of a new Master's degree program in Social Work, which will be offered starting Fall 2016. It is currently hiring faculty for this new program.
 - Private Gift: Northeastern received its largest private gift in its history this fall from NEIU alumnus Daniel L. Goodwin, who gave \$2.5 million in support of the College of Education.
 - Cancer Research: Last month, Northeastern – along with its partners, Northwestern University and University of Illinois at Chicago – received a \$17.4 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to

foster meaningful cancer research, education, training and outreach in the city's underserved communities.

NEIGHBORHOOD INFO / OPEN DISCUSSION

- Thomas Applegate from North River Commission discussed some community-engaged planning and economic development initiatives in its service area, particularly at the end of the CTA Brown Line station at Kimball.

The NNN meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.