



Northeastern Neighborhood Network (NNN)

Monday, November 28, 2016

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Summary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The NNN meeting began at 5:30 p.m. in the President's Conference Room. The following members were in attendance: Thomas Applegate (North River Commission), Laura Donaghy and Carmen Rodriguez (Hollywood-North Park Community Association), Jack Smith (North Park Village Nature Village) and Dr. Vicki Byard. Representing the University were Interim President Richard Helldobler, Mike Dizon (Chief Communications Officer) and University Police Chief John Escalante.

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 and shared a number of updates from Northeastern. They were joined by five members of the University who were asked to be present and also share information. They are University Police Chief John Escalante, Professor Emerita and Special Assistant to the Interim President Shelley Bannister, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Jessica Mueller, Senior Director of Academic and Community Partnerships Kris Pierre, Director of Cultural Events and Community and Professional Education Christie Miller.

- University Police Chief John Escalante: Now three months into his current position, Chief Escalante mentioned that he has a close working relationship with Chicago's 17th Police District Commander Elias Voulgaris with whom he supervised before he retired from his position as Chicago Police Department's First Deputy Superintendent. His goal, Escalante said, is the make sure the University – and the surrounding community – are as safe as possible.
- Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Jessica Mueller: The Alumni Relations Department offers to the public Blue & Gold memberships that affords its

members special discounts to University events and services like cultural events, the Ronald Williams Library, and the P.E. Complex where a \$350 annual membership is discounted to \$185. Individual memberships are \$30 annually. For more information, visit their website at www.neiu.edu/alumni.

- Director of Cultural Events and Community and Professional Education (CAPE) Christie Miller: The University's CAPE program provides non-credit seminars, workshops and lessons for members of the community. It regularly evaluates its list of offerings, which can be viewed on their website at www.neiu.edu/cape. Christie Miller encouraged NNN to solicit feedback from their respective organizations about their program offerings. Please send any program suggestions to cape@neiu.edu.
- Senior Director of Academic and Community Partnerships Kris Pierre: The University kicks off NEIU Gives Back Week on Nov. 29 with Giving Tuesday and concludes on Dec. 8 with a performance by comedian Leslie Jordan. During the week, many student clubs and organizations will raise money for charities or scholarships. Kris Pierre also discussed Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities (EPIC) and asked NNN members how the University can connect Northeastern's curricular and co-curricular programs to address the needs of the community. Suggestions can be sent to her at k-pierre@neiu.edu.
- NEIU Community Involvement: Mike Dizon shared the following brief updates.
 - Food Truck Fridays: The effort led by the Hollywood-North Park Community Association and the NEIU Foundation was a big success, bringing hundreds to campus as well as a wide variety of food trucks during four Fridays this fall. Food Truck Fridays are on a temporary hiatus during the cold weather months, but the HNPCA representative said they are working on bringing it back next year at a different location.
 - Early Voting: As a service to the community, Northeastern served as an early-voting polling site this November in advance of the General Election. Many members of the University Community – along with many members of the community -- cast their ballots early at the Main Campus.
 - El Centro: The University's El Centro location, which recently celebrated its second anniversary, has received LEED Gold certification. Northeastern is proud of this distinction as it demonstrates its commitment to environmental and green efforts.
- Updates from the Interim President
 - The University will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary with a yearlong celebration that starts next fall. Planning is currently underway.

- This fall, Northeastern enrolled its largest freshman class in three years.
- We continue to be recognized as the most diverse university in the area. Last week, the Wall Street Journal named Northeastern the most diverse university in the Midwest. This is consistent with other recognition we've received throughout the years. We also continue top the lists of universities that graduate students with the least amount of student debt.
- The College of Business and Management recently received the prestigious AACSB accreditation. The new Masters in Social Work program also received specialized accreditation.
- The Goodwin Gift Challenge, named after Daniel L. Goodwin, was launched at the start of the year with the incentive of a \$500,000 match during each of three years. Just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, donors raised passed the amount required to qualify for the \$500,000 match for this year.
- State funding of public higher education continues to be a challenge, and the State Legislature has not provided an appropriation in two years. However, Northeastern is stable, and there will be a spring semester.

■ Facilities

- The representative from the North Park Nature Village Center asked for an update on The Nest, Northeastern's new residence hall, which opened in August. President Helldobler said that The Nest has exceeded its first-year occupancy goal with 260 of 432 beds full. Given the national trends for those student-residents who renew as well as the expected interest among new incoming students, The Nest expects to be at full capacity next year. (To a related question, the President added that there have been no unusual problems reported with the new student-residents and that it has been a very positive experience for the University.)

The President also said construction on the second residence hall is still years away as it will take at least two or three years to plan and prepare for the Bryn Mawr site. The second residence hall will require a separate Request for Proposal (RFP) to enter a new public-private partnership like the one the University had with American Campus Communities, which oversaw the building of The Nest. The selected partner would hold responsibility for financing the project while Northeastern would be responsible for the demolition of that Bryn Mawr block, which it currently owns.

He said that he, along with Northeastern's executive director for governmental relations, have been working with the Alderman's Office and other parties to help facilitate the eventual relocation of

tenants. The University aims to keep the current buildings occupied and is investigating the temporary relocation of some University units to that Bryn Mawr block.

NEIGHBORHOOD INFO / OPEN DISCUSSION

- During a roundtable discussion, NNN members shared the following updates:
 - Dr. Vicki Byard inquired about the former Community Listeners program, which allowed members of the community to attend classes for no credit. The President mentioned that the program had been phased out due to insurance and liability issues related to those who attend classes but are not registered for them. Members of the community may continue to audit courses for no credit but must register and pay tuition. Our CAPE program helps to satisfy the needs of our neighbors looking for continuing education.
 - The HNPCA representative said that their Association is exploring the possibility of splitting into two: a civic organization and a chamber of commerce. She said they are currently drafting a revised mission and vision for the group. She also mentioned the success of Food Truck Fridays as well as the Hate Has No Home poster campaign.
 - The representative from the North River Commission said the Commission continues to work on area planning with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). He said they are particularly interested in the areas around the CTA's Kimball and Kedzie Brown Line stops.

The NNN meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting of NNN will be scheduled for March.