



Northeastern Neighborhood Network (NNN)

Monday, July 20, 2015

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Summary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting commenced at 6:40 p.m., and members of the NNN introduced themselves.

The following members were in attendance: Thomas Applegate (North River Commission), Carmen Rodriguez and Laura Donaghy (Hollywood-North Park Community Association), John Riordan (39th Ward Alderman's Office) and Jack Smith (North Park Village Nature Center). 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 Mike Hines (Director of Public Relations).

Member organizations that were absent included: 17th District Police, 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.

- April 30 Community Forum
 - Northeastern hosted a forum this spring to discuss University initiatives and to answer questions from neighbors.
 - Approximately 90 to 100 people attended the event, which was co-moderated by the President of the Hollywood-North Park Community Association.
 - Northeastern provided answers to pre-submitted questions from the community; they can be found in the archives section of Neighbors website, and an audio recording of the event is available in the archives of the University Library.

■ Residence Halls

- On May 14, the University broke ground on its Phase 1 Residence Hall project, which is located just south of the Parking Facility on the west side of the Main Campus. Construction will continue through the planned Fall 2016 opening.
- Matt Specht, who was recently named Northeastern's Dean of Students, will serve as the point person for the residence hall projects.
- Caren Real Estate, a property located on the 3400 block of Bryn Mawr, now belongs to the University. As part of Northeastern's agreement with Caren Real Estate, it will continue to operate at its current location until next spring.
- There has been very healthy interest among current and prospective students for student housing, and a number of them have already expressed a desire to be placed on a waiting list. This fall, the University will begin providing additional information as well as a mechanism to apply for housing on its new student housing website at www.neiustudenthousing.com.

■ Parking Updates

- The University is looking at parking much more carefully than it used to.
- It is currently exploring plans to add spaces at Foster Avenue and Campus Access Drive.
- Starting this fall, students will see a modest reduction in the parking fee.

■ Traffic and Parking Study

- Mike Dizon has collected and compiled community feedback and input on the study and shared with NNN several themes that have emerged. In general, the input fell into one of six categories:
 - Neighborhood considerations
 - Opportunities to better manage parking
 - Improving access to public transportation
 - Pedestrian safety
 - Construction impacts
 - Student driving and parking behavior
- President Hahs has identified a potential vendor who could administer the study, which would ideally be conducted this fall, and she plans to reach out to them soon.
- Answering a question from an NNN member, President Hahs confirmed that any student resident who elects to bring a car to the Main Campus would be required to obtain a University parking permit.

- Community partnerships and events update
 - Northeastern’s Music Department hosted a free Jazz Night concert for the public last month. In spite of being relocated from the University Commons to the Auditorium (due to rain) the event was well attended.
 - Northeastern is glad to help sponsor the Bon Appetit Albany Park Restaurant Week. The executive director of the North River Commission (NRC) encouraged NNN members to participate and invited them to a kick-off event on July 21 at the newly renovated Angelo’s Wine Bar.
 - Northeastern’s Senior Director for Community and Civic Engagement shared some ideas to partner with NRC to promote both local restaurants and University events. A “dinner and a movie” concept was well-received by the group, with one member suggesting that the idea would be even more popular if the plans included child-care opportunities.

NEIGHBORHOOD INFO / OPEN DISCUSSION

- The representative from the Alderman’s Office shared the following updates.
 - Resurfacing of Bryn Mawr Avenue has been completed, and the city will begin work on streetscape elements next week.
 - The flood control project has provided better drainage in the area and has reduced the number of basement flooding issues.
 - Chicago’s Korean Festival will take place on August 8 and 9.
- The representative from the North Park Village Nature Center said the Center hosted in April a centennial celebration for the former Chicago Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium located on its site.
- Representatives from the Hollywood-North Park Community Association (HNPCA) shared the following updates.
 - HNPCA hosted a tour last week of the new Habitat for Humanity ReStore, a home improvement store and donation center.
 - In May, HNPCA hosted a community event at ArtZone Café called “On The Table,” a group conversation about ways to better support, improve and invest in our community.
 - In October, HNPCA will host a presentation on how to safeguard your home from burglaries.

The NNN meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.