



Northeastern Neighborhood Network (NNN)

Monday, March 7, 2016

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Summary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting commenced at 6:34 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Thomas Applegate (North River Commission - NRC), Carmen Rodriguez (Hollywood-North Park Community Association and Von Steuben High School), Jack Smith (HNPCA and North Park Village Nature Village) and Janita Tucker (Peterson Pulaski Business and Industrial Council - PPBIC). Representing the University were President Sharon Hahs, Mike Dizon (Chief Communications Officer), Interim University Police Chief Paul Kruszynski and Kris Pierre (Senior Director of Academic and Community Partnerships).

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, Volta Elementary 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 is in its ninth month without an appropriation from the state due to the ongoing Illinois budget impasse.
 - Northeastern is currently operating on tuition revenue and reserves, which are dwindling. Some smaller projects that are not critical to the University's operations have been postponed.
 - The University will be open this summer and fall. The impasse has not yet impacted enrollment as fall applications look good, but the current situation is fragile.
 - Northeastern has fronted all Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants for all those qualified students who demonstrate financial need.

- **Facilities**

- In January, the University completed its purchase of the 3400 block of Bryn Mawr (between Bernard and Kimball). Businesses on that block have the option to continue operations for one year. It is unlikely that the 7-11 and TCF Bank will choose operate for the full year. Construction on that block will not take place for another year or so.
- Northeastern's first residence hall, The Nest, is ahead of schedule and will open this fall. Applications are looking good even though it's still early in the process. Starting Thursday, March 10, the University will give tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 3 and 5 p.m., and the tours are open to the public.
- In December, Northeastern hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the expansion of the Pedroso Center in the B Building. The Center now houses the African American, Asian / Global, Latino/a, LGBTQ, Undocumented Students and Women's Resource Centers.

■ NEIU Community Involvement

- NEIU Police Accreditation: The Interim Chief of Police discussed how last month the Police Department was awarded full accreditation status by the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. Northeastern is only the third public university police department in Illinois to receive this distinction.
- Tree Campus USA / NEIUGround: In February, Northeastern was recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation with a Tree Campus USA distinction for its commitment to urban forestry. On a related note, one NNN member noted that a few trees on the east side of the Main Campus were removed. The University cut them down because they were affected by the Emerald Ash Borer but intends to replace them once funds are available. The Senior Director of Academic and Community Partnerships also shared that NEIUGround will open for the planting season on April 16 and that Northeastern will participate in the 4th Annual Chavez Day of Service in collaboration with Roosevelt High School, NRC and the Peterson Garden Project.
- Kimball Mural: Northeastern – along with the National Museum of Mexican Art and the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance – unveiled a new mural late last year in an underpass along Kimball near the University's El Centro location.
- Early Voting at NEIU: Northeastern will make early voting available on its Main Campus on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 003 of the Student Union Building (next to the cafeteria). Early voting is open to voters who are registered in the City of Chicago. Voter registration will also be available.

■ Albany Park Tunnel Project

- A representative from the Alderman's Office was unable to attend the NNN meeting but told the NNN chair that the project will begin this

spring. A boring machine will drill a tunnel under Foster Avenue at a pace of six feet each day. It is not expected to cause much traffic around the University's Main Campus. Additionally, the drilling will take place far enough underground that noise is not expected to be an issue.

■ Other News

- Dr. Daniel Lopez was named Vice President for Student Affairs in December after a nationwide search. He was formerly NEIU's Associate Vice President for Student Affairs.
- On January 26, the University dedicated the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education. Goodwin is a graduate of Northeastern and is Chairman and CEO of The Inland Real Estate Group of Companies.
- Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. and Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis spoke to the university community at separate events last month.
- The 2016 Illinois Academic Decathlon will take place at NEIU on March 12. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a timekeeper or judge, please call 773-442-6044.
- Evan Wolfson, a civil rights leader who is known as the "Godfather of Gay Marriage" will be Northeastern's Commencement Speaker in May.
- The National Science Foundation awarded Northeastern's Earth Science Department \$474,000 and the Center for College Access and Success \$900,000 to study Mexican water quality and computational thinking, respectively.

NEIGHBORHOOD INFO / OPEN DISCUSSION

- During a roundtable discussion, NNN members shared the following updates:
 - HNPCA will meet on March 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Northside College Prep. A representative from Gethsemane Garden Center will give a free gardening presentation.
 - Beijo de Chocolat on Foster Avenue has closed, but neighbors are excited about a new French patisserie and a new design studio that are scheduled to open on Bryn Mawr later this year.
 - Von Steuben High School will host a Welcome Night on March 24 for accepted students. It is also open to the public.
 - NRC has formed a steering committee to oversee an 18- to 24-month community visioning program.
 - PPBIC's service area has expanded to include the Elston Armstrong corridor. The Peterson Pulaski Industrial Complex is now at 99 percent capacity.

The NNN meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m. The next meeting of NNN will be scheduled for July.