

Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Steering Committee

Wednesday, November 14th, 2012

The November Edition of the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Steering Committee got under way shortly after 7PM with introductions and, after a verification of a quorum, approval of the previous meetings minutes.

Chairman Liorah Wichser commenced with Committee Reports.

Planning Committee: Jay Cousins reported that the Planning Committee is currently not planning anything. They plan to meet and plan to plan but the plans for those plans are on hold and Jay will contact the people involved in the committee and they will figure out from there what the plans will be.

Communications: We have been given an extra mailing this year and a discussion was started to figure out what to do with that mailing. It was proposed to put out a newsletter designed to invite people to come to the Neighborhood meetings. We want to get it out soon to advertise our Holiday Potluck prior to next month's meeting. A small committee was formed to meet and make this happen.

E.J. Ianelli gave a brief update on the state of our Neighborhood Website. He discussed the Blog that has been very informative about meetings and schedules and sidewalk info. Jay is very close to completing work on a new Landing Page. I'm not very tech savvy but I think that's a page you would land at when searching for E-G information.

Parks: Sara Kimball reported that both parks have electrical drops in them. The new play equipment for Emerson Park is in and weather will now be a factor in its timely installation. Weather and the glacial pace at which the Parks Department ambles through the ages. A new horse pit is planned to be installed in Corbin Park but the location is still a mystery.

Business District: Ha! Good one! There does not seem to be anything going on with the Business District as far as involvement with this committee. No business owners attend the meeting and the attempts to re-establish a group of business owners that meet and discuss the shared concerns of the neighborhood has not developed into what one might call a sustainable organization.

Street and Trees and Sidewalks: (oh my) Leaf pick up has now been completed as you read this. This led into a discussion on which side of the street you should park on when the snow plows come. In even years, you are to park on the even numbered side of the street. In our neighborhood, the even side for East-West streets is the North side of the street. For North-South streets, one must park on the East side of the street. Never let it be said that valuable and useful information is not available at these meetings.

New Business: Liorah announced that she is working on a project to create a documentary of our neighborhood. She is looking for people who might want to submit their own mini films to be a part of this project. Anyone interested in participating can contact Liorah at all the Liorah locations.

Police Report: Auto thefts continue to occupy a great deal of the time of Car Thieves and therefore, a great of the time of the Police. Unattached Garage break ins are up as well. It is best to bring your cars and garages into the house.

Community Assembly: There will be, actually, there was a joint meeting of the Community Assembly and the City Council on November 28th at 4:30 at the N.E. Community Center. You should have been there, as many of the world's problems were solved.

At this point, the Steering Committee portion of the meeting was convened and many of the world's problems were solved. Among them, the discussion turned to Community Development funds and which organizations Emerson-Garfield supports. On the recommendations of the committee that met to make

these recommendations, Emerson-Garfield chose to support the Corbin Senior Center, West Central Community Center, COPS N.E., Second Harvest Food Bank, Mid-City Concerns and C.H.A.S.

This process is very different from the past when we actually allocated money to the organization we chose to support. With less money and major reorganization in the way this program is delivered, we now just make recommendations on whom we support. That does not mean the organizations will get the money they requested, or any money at all.

In the area of Capital Funding, the committee has \$57,250.00 to work with. The committee recommended and the council supported \$34,650 to Home Rehab, \$20,000 to sidewalks, and \$2,600 to Corbin Senior Center.

Finally, Liorah reported that there was a \$100,000.00 Supplemental Grant available city wide for neighborhood projects. The deadline for project submissions is December 6th. It was decided we needed to come up with a proposal this very night. Surprisingly, people had some ideas. Among the ideas presented were rebuilding the tennis courts at Corbin Park, a dog park, a covered picnic shelter at Corbin Park, and a covered bus shelter along the North Monroe corridor.

After a goodly amount discussion, the council voted to support the construction of a covered bus shelter on the west side of the intersection of Monroe and Montgomery. Hopefully it could be designed with some sort of aesthetic of a historic nature that would eventually blend with whatever the North Monroe revitalization project becomes. Of course, that's a lot to hope for.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56PM with a reminder that next month is our annual Holiday Potluck Dinner prior to the 7PM meeting. So everyone was invited to bring a neighbor and a favorite dish and be in our regular meeting room (Upper South) at 6PM to share some Holiday Cheer.