**Noble Neighbors Community Meeting at Bethel Church 7/1/14**

**Summary**

The meeting was led by Cynthia Griggins and Brenda May.

Pastor Holloway of Bethel Church opened the meeting with a prayer for the family of Jim Brennan and the community of Cleveland Heights.

**The first part of the meeting was devoted to announcements and reports:**

-Cynthia gave a brief introduction to the Noble Neighbors (NN) Community meetings (1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., location changes monthly) and the informative website designed by Brenda May – www.nobleneighbors.com .

-Brenda spoke about the Pick Up for Pride clean up day along Noble Road organized by the Beautification Committee of NN, noting that it had helped to change the way that people were talking about the neighborhood.

-Brenda defined the area encompassed by Noble Neighbors. It includes the streets north of Mayfield, east of Taylor, and southeast off of Quilliams. You can see/ print a street map at the Noble Neighbors’ website. Click on the “About” tab and then “maps.”

-Brenda mentioned the solar powered LED lights that had been discussed at the last NN meeting in the Crime Prevention group. These are available for a good price at Harbor Freight in Eastlake.

-Mary Davis spoke about the closing of the Byou Bar on Noble. After CH and the Byou took each other to court regarding the city’s efforts to close the bar, the 2 parties settled in Federal Court. The terms of the settlement included that the Byou close on July 15th and that its owners not own an establishment w/in city limits that sells alcohol. CH agreed to pay the Byou’s $8500 in court costs. Mary pointed out that the willingness of neighbors to testify in court about problems with the bar was an important factor in the city getting such a favorable settlement.

-Brenda reminded people about the weekly Meet Your Police meetings held on Thursdays from 6:00-8:00. She told people to try especially to attend the first Thursday of the month since this meeting is held at the police academy on Noble Road. CH City Council recently established this as a regular meeting place in response to concerns that the neighborhood had about crime.

-Cynthia reminded people to continue to attend the CH city council meetings and council of the whole meetings. Susan Reithmiller agreed to send out reminders/ sign-up sheets, but noted that people actually had to sign up. And not just the same handful of people either!

-Jeannette Carr reminded people about the Captains’ game fundraiser. The final day to buy tickets is July 30th and the game is August 12th. The funds raised provide scholarships for low income children to use the rec center and the city pools.

-Brenda told people that the new Access Cleveland Heights app was now live. The app (which works from a smart phone or a computer) allows you to report problems from potholes to park maintenance to unsightly vacant properties to the city. You can include photos and track the progress of the fix.

-Carol Roe, a 30 year resident of Beverly Rd., mentioned that neighbors on Beverly were having a get-together in July as a way of re-activating the block parties of old. She also told people about the CH Democrats’ picnic on July 10th at Denison Park.

-Cynthia asked for feedback on the June 17th meeting organized by the city w/ Rick Wagner of the Housing Dept. and Chief Robertson from the Police Dept.. A somewhat tense discussion ensued concerning Section 8, “speaking in code,” and problem neighbors.

-Brenda spoke about attending with other community leaders a meeting of the Novak Group, an outside firm looking at city services. Brenda felt that she had to work to pull the discussion away from problems such as broken parking meters to the concerns of the NN community. She also mentioned that business leaders expressed concern that rents for store fronts in CH were higher than in attractive areas of Cleveland such as University Circle or the Detroit Shoreway.

**The second part of the meeting was devoted to a longer discussion on attracting new home buyers to the neighborhood.**

-Brenda has started a blog on the NN website to tell good stories about the neighborhood. She also requested photos for the website.

-One participant mentioned that it would be possible to link the NN website to an IDX (Internet Data Exchange) feed to show area properties for sale.

-Brenda would also like to invite realtors to a NN meeting.

-Several people had heard that University Circle/ Case was handing out maps with the Noble/ Monticello area highlighted as an unsafe area for renting or purchasing homes. There was a discussion about how to respond if this information proved accurate. The general consensus was that CH city council would need to address the issue with Chris Ronayne of University Circle, Inc.

-A participant mentioned that Habitat for Humanity had redefined its mission to invest in entire neighborhoods and wondered if the Noble Neighborhood would be a candidate. Another participant mentioned that the CSU Urban Affairs graduate students might be interested in the neighborhood for a class project. Further research would be required to determine how to apply to either organization.

**The third part of the meeting was devoted to task group meetings, including:**

Housing, Beautification, Business, Crime Prevention, and Marketing.

A huge thank you as always to Brenda, Cynthia, and everyone who attended the meeting! I apologize for any errors or omissions in this summary.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Partridge