Noble Neighbors meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Announcements:

Carol Roe: explained that she is one of 10 applicants for the vacant Cleveland Hts. City Council seat. (No longer accepting applicants.) Other council members will appoint. Council members will interview 3-5 of the candidates and then select.

Wendy made short presentation on the Eastside Greenway Project, linking suburban neighborhoods to Downtown Cleveland via bike trails. One will go down Monticello, which will benefit our neighborhood. She urged people to visit their website and take the survey. <http://eastsidegreenway.weebly.com> The link can also be found on Noble Neighbors website.

Krista Hawthorne, Executive Director, Reaching Heights described their agency and need for volunteers. They work with the Cleveland Heights schools, offering tutoring, etc. Specifically mentioned needing tutors at Noble and Oxford schools, and volunteers for their Role Model program.

Marcie Denton and Alvin Saafir: Cleveland Hts. School levy vote is May 5. Visit CHUHyes.com for more information.

Susan Reithmiller is busy as a new board member of Future Heights, and so she asked for someone to take over the work she was doing coordinating folks to attend City Council meetings. She reminded us of the value of bearing witness for Noble Neighbors at those meetings. She reminded us that Future Heights is always looking for articles to publish in the Heights Observer. Susan also introduced her idea of “pop-up stores” for the April 26 real estate event. She asked for volunteers to assist with planning. When discussing this, Jeff Coryell announced that there will be a food event—like pop up restaurants—at the Alcazar Hotel on March 12.

Jeff Coryell announced that Mary Weems, our neighborhood poet, wants to start collecting the stories of Noble neighbor residents. These can be submitted to her either in writing, or on media like YouTube.

Maury Haymore and wife, who have lived on Elmwood since 2000 are very interested in having neighbors from our group help them in developing the empty lot on Noble, across from the car wash. They have a number of ideas and have been talking to community leaders about the potential of that lot.

Brenda May reminded people of the upcoming Real Estate Fair on April 26. She needs assistance in handing out flyers door-to-door.

The rest of the meeting was given over to Mark Chupp and Nina Holzer from MSASS (the social work school at CWRU) who are organizing the student-led analysis of our Noble neighborhood. They described the 4 work groups focusing on different aspects of the community: housing, business/retail, youth/education, and safety. The students will be gathering both qualitative and quantitative data through interviews, survey, focus groups, etc. The will be identifying main stakeholders in our community and talking with them. The final product of the project will be data that then can be used as a basis for the next step, which would planning to address the problems. The final written document (along with the raw data) will be made available to Noble Neighbors and to City Council.

Mark and Nina then explained the housing survey which will be conducted on 2 Saturday mornings: Feb. 7 and Feb. 14. Students will be paired with Noble Neighbor volunteers to do a walking or driving visual analysis of the housing stock in our entire area. Volunteers are needed. The base of operations will be the Police Academy, and training to conduct the survey will begin at 9 am both mornings.

The remainder of the meeting was spent divided into groups to discuss with the CWRU students.