

Chatham Arch Neighborhood Association   
Tuesday, February 24, 2014  
6:30 pm – Social Gathering

7:00 pm – Business Meeting   
Firefighters Union Hall, 748 Massachusetts Avenue

Jen Clady called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Officer Evans

Officer Kimberly Evans and Community Prosecuting Attorney April Fisher and Sgt. Scott Rodriguez (in charge of the crew patrolling our neighborhood)

Anytime there’s crime in the neighborhood, they want to make everyone aware and keep communication open.   Roger and Donna Neu have volunteered to be crime watch coordinators for the neighborhood and will get information from Officer Evans.  Officer Evans can connect neighbors to them if they want to be involved.

Officer Evans reported that there were several vehicle breakins between Feb. 2 and Feb. 20.  They had a consistent theme of a window busted, a bag with Macbook and wallet, another with a briefcase, and finally a garage door opener that was used to steal from the garage.

Officer Evans advised that neighbors make sure that any valuables, laptop cases, even if they don’t have anything of value, are not left in the car.  Even coin pockets, GPS, car charger.  If they need to stay in the car, secure them in your trunk. Several thefts had vehicles that were unlocked, so be sure to lock your doors.

Sgt. Rodriguez noted that IMPD has increased patrols in our area and encouraged neighbors to call if they see anything and keep porch lights on.

Officer Evans discussed recent graffiti at Ralston’s. The gang unit will work to identify the tagger if possible. In the meantime, IMPD is speaking with owners of building to clean it up.

She also noted that Tony Brown has been promoted to sgt on the downtown district’s late shift.

April Fisher provided an update on recent cases, including the fact that William Smith was charged with murder today. She also noted that a man named Cedric Alexander has been soliciting donations door to door for charities, but he is not affiliated with these organizations.

Her office is holding a food drive in March for Gleaners Food Bank, and donations can be dropped off at 251 E. Ohio, Suite 160.

Minutes

Minutes from the November 25, 2014, meeting were approved.

Old business: Credit Union Update

Scott Williams, Meg Storrow and Jon Kinsella provided an update. They are now fully approved through IHPC and thanked neighbors for their support. They are moving forward with a “destination” art piece based on Prometheus the Greek god of fire. They are beginning fundraising efforts and project the piece may cost $400,000 to $500,000. They’ve gotten good feedback from the Arts Council.

They hoped to break ground on the parking lot right after St. Pat’s day, but it will likely be later in March.

They are going to partner with Fringe to have a theater in the Union Hall and let them use the parking lot, and they hope it will draw people to the museum as well.

When the property swap hit some speed bumps, they had to pursue other options.  They are closing with city on March 16th.  Scott said, “We will build their building for them and then lease it back to them, which protects our interests in keeping our campus for the long term.”

The credit union will not give up the bus lot since they aren’t swapping the land.  In response to a request from a neighbor, Scott said that he would be willing to argue in favor of having that lot held for development, but it is not a stated promise from them.

Building the credit union will delay expansion at the Union Hall, which will be about $4m and the Credit Union will be about $3.2m.

They are in conversations with a potential tenant, a labor organization, but still in early talks.  That may have impact on the timetable as well.

The lot will be gated, and they are in conversations with artist Ryan Finey to develop gates in an appropriate fashion.

They will have a pergola on the north side of the lot. All art will be anchored.

They hope to have the lot’s hardscape done by August.  Fringe plans to use it in August.

Reports:

Membership: Sally shared that we had 65 members, including 8 businesses and 2 associates.  Now accepting renewals!

Finance: Steve Thornton report that, as of end of last year, we had net income of negative $2,605, primarily because we made a $5,000 foundation donation to support park maintenance and electric bills.  The fund balance as of the end of 2014 was $39,367.46 and as of Jan. 31 was $40,545.82.  In February, we incurred our biggest expense for D&O insurance and properties owned by foundation, which is split with foundation ( $1,800).

Foundation: Annie Lear reported that the Foundation met with CANA in January to talk about common goals for the year and partnership.  Alley restoration and signage/branding for the neighborhood emerged as key priorities.  They talked about street signs similar to what Lockerbie has but don’t have a lot of flexibility in how we could do that based on IHPC.  We are also updating the logo and talked about a tree planting initiative and working with KIB.

Related to alleys, instead of moving forward with individual projects that require an individual project each time, we are developing a shared MOU for all future alleys that just got approved.  The alley abutting the parking lot will be done with new brick and historic brick on periphery and a “gutter” to improve drainage.  The other section we are looking at first is between 10th and 9th and between Park and Broadway because of problems with drainage and potholes.  Getting estimates now.  First alley was $70k.

UDC/IHPC: Gary Pike reported that we will likely be asking for a special March meeting to discuss Zion’s sign request to move from manual to electronic sign.  They plan to go to IHPC in April.  Meg and Jon are stepping down from UDC, so looking for new members.  The group will soon start meeting on second Tuesday of the month.

A March meeting date, if needed, will be determined and announced based on hall availability.

MAMA: No report

Other: Parking committee is in the works.

Community garden applications are due end of month.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.