



NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS ALLIANCE MEETING

Salisbury Community Appearance Commission

Thursday, October 28, 2010

4 p.m.

Park Avenue Neighborhood Center

MINUTES

In attendance: Dorothy Campbell (West Side), J. Campbell (West Side), Betty Carli, Jim Carli (West Square), Greta Connor (Sedgefield Acres), Selma Dansokho (Fulton Heights), James Donaldson (Jersey City), Lisa Ford (Fairview Heights), Almeader Holt (West Side), Shirley Johnson (West End), Anne Lyles (Brooklyn South Square), Lou Manning (Park Avenue), Sue McHugh (North Main), Sean Meyers (North Main), Barbara Perry (West Square), Bill Safrit (Milford Knoll), and Missy Shives (Milford Hills)

City Staff: Chris Branham, Ann Cooper, Janet Gapen, Diana Moghrabi, Colleen Murtaugh, Lynn Raker and Jan Seawell

United Way: Jackie Harris

WELCOME

The meeting began with some refreshment and greeting time. All attendees introduced themselves and stated their neighborhood. This group meets twice a year. In between the main meetings, there are subcommittees who are working on specific goals.

BLOCK WORK

We are looking at a holistic approach to how neighborhoods can build accountability among themselves. Volunteers from the April meeting met three times and designed a program currently called "Block Work." *Accountability happens one block at a time.*

The committee has prepared guidelines and an application. This pertains to exterior work.

Neighborhoods may submit applications for consideration for an intensive work day similar to United Way's Day of Caring. Successful applications from neighborhoods will demonstrate need and willingness to collaborate with property owners, renters, fire, police, planning and code staff, and the United Way work teams. Applications will be evaluated by NLA team in coordination with City and United Way staff. The work plan will be designed by the principal participants and will include a preliminary education phase.

Applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated need and neighborhood willingness to participate. Program leaders will tour candidate blocks with applicants and other appropriate personnel (planning, code enforcement, police, fire, public services, etc.) Program leaders and support staff will meet with property owners and renters to determine feasibility of work plan. For the program to be successful, the anticipated work plan cannot exceed the capacity of the BLOCKWORK team.

UNITED WAY

The United Way has wanted to get involved with neighborhood issues which is a good tie-in to their day of caring. They partnered with the subcommittee and submitted a grant to the Salisbury Community Foundation for the funding of a model project in the spring of 2011. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Lynn Raker introduced Jackie Harris with the United Way. Ms. Harris explained how Day of Caring works. The day begins with breakfast that is prepared by the Rotary Club. Lunch is delivered to the site. They normally finish at 4-5 p.m.

The United Way has been able to do a lot of work for a minimum number of dollars. Ms. Harris is very experienced at coordinating a workday like this. She understands safety, collaboration and has necessary paperwork such as waivers.

Ms. Harris answered questions.

DISCUSSION

Ann Cooper of the Salisbury Police Department said there was grant money available through the NC Governor's Crime Commission for programs. It is worth looking into for next year.

The committee would like to involve older youth (colleges) in the program for their community service requirement, as an educational tool, and for fellowship.

This will go to City Council November 16. If Council endorses the program, then they will probably help to bring in city labor and services such as sidewalks, curbs and stormwater grates that need to be cleaned up. Mayor Kluttz and Mayor Pro-tem Maggie Blackwell are excited about the project. Jackie Harris will lend credibility to the project when it is taken to City Council. Everyone was asked to come to that council meeting in support of the presentation of the proposal. The secretary will send out an email reminder.

Neighborhoods will receive a cover letter, the guidelines, and an application to submit. Someone has to be the representative for the block and who will put together a team of participants so it really is a neighborhood project. Leaders should pick an area that is "possible and probable." The Neighborhood Leaders Alliance would like to receive neighborhood applications by December 31, 2010.

CODE SERVICES DIVISION

Colleen Murtaugh with Code Services Division is researching standards for boarding up houses. Some folks thought that painting whimsy on the boards could make it more appealing. Screwing boards may be a standard rather than nailing. Of course, this is a last resort and we do not want to be boarding up houses.

Chris Branham, Manager of the Code Services Division, supports the proposal. He has seen similar programs work in other jurisdictions. It could motivate neighbors to raise their standard.

Chris has concerns about getting consent from the property owners; he has found contact with property owners can sometimes be a challenge for Code Services Division. Non-response and absentee landlords could affect the outcome of an application.

This program could grow and sponsors could be found for projects. Code Services Division could use this program as a tool in their toolbox.

Chris explained the process for placing liens on property and for boarded up houses.

There was a discussion on graffiti removal. The product that works is very expensive to use.

WRAP UP

We will need some committees to work out the details: help with the application and selections; work with setting up teams (Manpower Committee); Sponsorships—looking for sponsors and donors for materials, food and beverages; Workday Provisions Committee—people who are responsible for having food on the site for the workers and drinks on the site. We will be calling on people to see if you are willing to work on one or more of those committees.

We may have to meet in January 2011 to touch base.

April 22, 2011, is Earth Day and could be a good tie-in to the program.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Moghrabi
Secretary to the Community Appearance Commission
dmogh@salisburync.gov

<http://www.salisburync.gov/lm&d/Neighborhoods/Neighborhoods.html>