

City of Sheboygan
2021-01-05

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CITY OF SHEBOYGANMAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP CABINETTuesday, January 5,
2021

Mayor Vandersteen called the meeting to order at 6: 30 pm at City Hall in the 3
rd Floor Council Chambers, 828 Center Avenue. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Members present: Mayor Mike Vandersteen, Director of City Development Chad
Pelishek, Alderperson Dean Dekker, Alderperson Betty Ackley, Grant Coordinator
Abby Block, Jody Kraemer, Adam Roethel, Shari Thelen, Rochelle Ross, Bill
Young, Penny Weber, and Police Chief Christopher Domagalski.

Others present: Edward Procek, Janet Duellman from City Development, Ellise
Rose from City Development, Officer Israel Deutsch, Officer Kevin Post, and
Keith Jacks.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of October 20, 2020 meeting. All ayes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

3.1 Feature

Presentation:

"Pet Friendly Task Group" Alderperson Betty Ackley.

Alderperson Betty Ackley is serving as the chairperson of this task group and
Abby Block from City Development is serving as the secretary. In March 2020
Mayor Vandersteen invited residents to participate in a task group dedicated to
improving pet-friendliness in the city. He had recently learned of the Better
Cities for Pets program administered by the Mars Corporation that offers this
as a certification program that designated cities as Pet-Friendly Cities.

The presentation outlined the aspects of healthy pets and people as well as
responsible pet ownership. The task group did an assessment to see where
Sheboygan currently stands regarding pet-friendliness; results were 78 % score
for shelters, 44 % score for homes, 44 % score for parks, and 44 % score for
businesses overall average of 53 %, so there is room for improvement. The

task group meets monthly and so far has reviewed the city's pet-friendly spaces, reviewed existing pet ordinances, developed a community survey to understand how residents feel about pet-friendliness. The survey is planned to be released in spring, please help spread the word to get participation. There aren't currently any cities in Wisconsin with the Pet-Friendly Cities designation and we would like to be the first.

3.2 Results of the Neighborhood Association Survey.

Chad Pelishek from City Development gave a presentation on the results of the MNLC survey that was administered after the virtual meeting event that took place on October 20. There were 19 people who took the survey and Chad shared info about the results that covered topics ranging from what types of meetings they prefer to what accomplishment their Neighborhood Association is most proud of. The next topic Chad presented was the possibility of reorganizing the schedule of MNLC meetings the participants of this meeting were asked to share what their thoughts are about the options that were presented and that info will be taken back for consideration and an internal discussion. Chad provided an update about the staff in his department and what roles/responsibilities they will have in relations to the Neighborhood Associations. Next steps: the Planning & Development Dept, the Mayor, and the Police Dept staff will be meeting tomorrow to review this info and develop a final plan for identifying the needs of the Neighborhood Associations. Alderperson Dean Dekker commented that he feels that they should at a minimum meet quarterly for the MNLC, or staying with every-other-month would be good too. He also stated that the tours of City/County facilities were beneficial and should continue these are helpful for giving the board members ideas of activities. Keith Jacks from Gateway commented that he agrees that he feels the MNLC meetings are very valuable and for those who are relatively new to MNLC and/or to their Neighborhood Association, they are looking for info from others about best practices. Abby Block mentioned the possibility of melding two ideas continue the MNLC meetings bi-monthly or quarterly, but then offer additional options for casual get togethers. Chad replied to Abby's suggestion and said that idea could be possible as long as open meeting laws are met. Dean stated that he always encourages neighborhoods to visit each other's meetings King Park neighborhood has visited one of the Indiana Corridor neighborhood meetings because they were curious to see how their group worked and how they were getting such a good turnout.

3.3 Neighborhood roundtable discussion.

Keith Jacks from the Gateway neighborhood gave an update about the Christmas decorating contest that they organized. They got the word out with flyers, had judges that picked winners in six categories, and everyone had a fun time with the event.

Officer Israel Deutsch mentioned that the associations should try to use the winter months to start thinking of plans for interacting with their neighborhoods when the warmer weather is here. He referred to a meeting that Indiana Corridor held last year where they were on the vacant lot on the corner of 22 nd Street and Indiana Avenue because it gave them very high visibility and created interest among neighbors who haven t participated in the past.

Dean stated that one of the biggest challenges they are facing right now is finding a place to meet that s large enough for people to spread out so they can be socially distanced. In the past they often met at Frankie s bar, but it is quite small. They have also used Madison Elementary school in the past when they knew they would be having a lot of attendees, but currently due to the pandemic the SASD isn t allowing meetings in the schools. They understand that they can use the Council Chambers for meetings, but it can be more difficult to get people to travel to attend a meeting.

Keith stated that they are meeting monthly via Zoom, although participation has been low. He likes the idea of meeting on a street corner, but that will have to wait until warmer weather.

Janet Duellman stated that the Planning Dept. has a Zoom account that they can use to setup meetings for Neighborhood Associations. Staff can be there to get the meetings started and can participate as needed. This has been very successful for some of the associations who have gotten increased participation because it is easier for people to fit remote meetings into their schedules. Anyone who needs help to setup a Zoom meeting can call/email Janet, Abby, or Ellise.

Police Chief Domagalski also offered the Municipal Court space as a meeting location. Either of the Beat Officers would be happy to help arrange that.

3.4 Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride update. Penny said that things have been rather quiet lately. There is one neighborhood that is just beginning to organize it is Business Drive North being led by Office Haese. Their first meeting was in December and had a great turnout about 32 people. There was a lot of interest in moving forward with the group, next meeting date is to be determined. Mayor Vandersteen thanked Penny for all the great work she has done in 2020 and got us up to having 12 official Neighborhood Associations. Officer Kevin Post stated the SNP is down to two board members, so if anyone has ideas of people who might be interested in serving on the board, please contact Penny.

CLOSING OF MEETING Next meeting date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021. This date is dependent on the outcome of the staff discussion taking place January 6 we will let the MNLC members know what the decision is.

ADJOURNMeeting adjourned at 7: 04 pm.