



www.italianvillage.org

P.O. Box 8001, Columbus, Ohio 43201

Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2012

Short Stop Youth Center

1066 North High Street

7:30 PM

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests

There were 9 members and 3 guests present at the meeting, for a total of 12 people. Quorum was not present and only discussions were conducted.

Opening Comments

President Jared Wilson welcomed all members and guests. All board members were present.

Italian Village Community Gardens and Orchard- Greg Maynard

Greg was invited to speak on behalf of promoting community gardens and the implementation of an orchard in the neighborhood. Property owners in the neighborhood, Andy Klein and Emily Noble, have shown interest in starting the orchard, with the assistance of Mr. Maynard and possibly the Martha Walker Garden club. The Orchard would take approximately ten years to mature and harvest. Lease agreements and up keep would potentially be directed with the Martha Walker Garden club. Implementation of the Orchard could potentially start in the fall of this year.

Greg explained some of the points in starting an orchard and the urban environment. He spoke of success in the city of Philadelphia with urban gardening. He spoke of Forest gardens, layers of food from tall trees to root crops. The use of urban land and the potential toxins especially lead in the landscapes. Bioremediation and not composting was pointed out as a way to improve the soil. Community gardens with the assistance of Local Matters and the certification of the harvest were discussed. The leasing of lots from the city for \$1 for the use of community gardens and land values were also discussed. Private land is best for the endeavors with pocket parks and other green spaces giving other ways of utilization.

Some spots in the neighborhood were brought up as potential areas for gardens. The Fourth Ave and Say Ave lot, the area East of Fourth St at Third Ave, The Old Community Garden between Punta Alley and E Second Ave and the Second Ave School Lot were all mentioned as potential gardens. Armeni properties were mentioned as possible garden spaces, as well. The addition of organic matter to these areas is of utmost importance due to the soil quality. All the new construction in the neighborhood should be a concern and the implementation of creating a park like setting is possible.

Time, Energy, Persistence and Money are hurdles that need to be jumped for Green space to be fulfilled in the neighborhood. Steps to get these spaces started include: Fundraising, Securing Land, Reclaiming Abandoned Gardens, Recruiting Significant individuals i.e. MWGC, stimulating interest, Attaining Resources i.e. national and local (Franklin park conservatory) and Communities coming together i.e. Wieland Park and IV.

The conversation turned again to certain areas of the neighborhood that have potential. The 2nd Ave School and junior Achievement's interest and the Corner Park at E 2nd Ave and Mt Pleasant were discussed along with the Martha Walker Walkway. Joe Armeni's various land holdings were also brought up. The dimensions of potential gardens were also discussed with 4'x8' plus paths as a standard and need for 50' by 80' for the total. Decisions as to what stipulations the garden would have would depend on the group in charge of the area. Factors such as Dogs, Tobacco, Organic, and Pesticides all could be guidelines in the garden development.

IV Commission Report – Per David Cooke for Jill Clark

Commission meeting are held at 109 N Front St at 6:15pm the third Tuesday of the month. David mentioned that DAS's will be installed atop existing utility poles to alleviate the cell phone dead zones in the neighborhood. These transmitters don't seem to be visually intrusive.

The Fireproof will bring modified plans for the multiunit building infill. They are planning three to five storied buildings with different brick. The Fireproof parking will include more than the parking for residents, issues with Mt Pleasant and the increased traffic have become a discussion point. Elford plans to begin the Fireproof construction in August.

Signage for the 2nd Ave School is being proposed. The first special meeting for the Jeffery will bring forward the first concept of the Community center and other buildings that will mimic the industrial history of the area. Apartments with a reduced density are planned to be presented. The Jeffery development meeting is at 1pm on April 10th with the IV commission. A small restaurant is being proposed with parking and possible noise being an issue. The location is on Brickel which used to be an automotive repair/detailing shop.

Crime Report –Officer Steve Smith

Officer Smith mentioned the Candle Lab was robbed and the some smashing of doors and windows and taking of cash registers has occurred recently. Traffic accident at 5th and High was an issue that day with an Ibiza instigator being involved. Pleasant weather has an effect on traffic accidents.

He mentioned the 'Occupy Columbus' movement has migrated north from the statehouse towards campus. A Robbery occurred on 4th Ave and Mt Pleasant i.e. purse snatching. Eyes up. Parking and construction has become an issue and hopefully the constructions of garages will alleviate this ailment. As stated over and over, the Car break-ins occur most often when anything is in plain sight. The selection of the new police chief will coincide with the Fire chief retiring and both will be named, hopefully in April.

Italian Village Park Update – Steve Hurtt

The Italian Village Garden Spring Clean up is scheduled for 10 am on Saturday March 31st, interested parties should bring tools.

Traffic and Parking Open Discussion- Mike Renner

The Society is forming a Committee to spearhead the Traffic issues in the neighborhood. Issues brought up from the meeting and on the Facebook page include: the calming of Summit and North Fourth St, one-way versus two-way on said streets, traffic control device synchronizations, pedestrian countdown lights, petitioning city for changes, finding the players in the traffic game. In addition these points were touched on: interested parties i.e. the Short North Foundation & residents, short term fixes, no traffic lanes or sidewalks taken by construction companies, assisting merchants, the fireproof development, no sidewalks or lanes compromised, the 70/71 split fix, miles per hour on Fourth and Summit, traffic calming ideas, parking of construction companies employees to be at a remote location and other brainstorming for the neighborhood. Interested parties in assisting on this committee should contact the chair, Mike.

Membership Report – Mike Renner

Mike reported a total of 62 members. (If you have not yet, you can join online, it is quick and easy. <http://italianvillage.org/JoinNow.html>)

Approval of February Minutes

The Minutes from the February were slated for approval at the next meeting

Treasurer's Report – Stephanie Harris

The Treasurer report for February was slated for approval at April meeting.

Announcements

- The Short North Yard Sale will be Saturday June 2nd.
- Italian Village T-shirts and Sweatshirts are available for sale at *What the Rock?!* and *PM Gallery*.
- The 22nd and 23rd of March will have the 'Trail of Goldilocks' play at the Short Stop Youth Center with a suggested donation for entry.
- Meeting minutes, complete with hyperlinks, can be viewed online at (<http://www.italianvillage.org/MeetingInformation>).

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Vidoni
Italian Village Society Secretary