

## 04/21/15 – Neighborhood President's Council Meeting

- **Introductions** (Larry Strange)
- **Immersive Learning Projects:** Melinda Messineo (BSU Sociology Dept.) & students
  - Riverside/Normal City Survey
    - Students created & distributed survey
      - included 16 questions that took 5-10 minutes to complete
      - Had a 35% response rate; 32.4 – median age of respondent
      - 70% of respondents were renters
    - Responses
      - Majority of respondents knew neighbors moderately well
      - Majority of respondents had little to no knowledge of the neighborhood association
      - Majority of respondents had no desire to join association; 15-20 might be interested
        - Factors not to join: too busy & lack of motivation
      - Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Priorities:
        - Neighborhood strengths: location, community, noise level
        - Neighborhood weaknesses: street conditions, student behavior
        - Neighborhood opportunities: park, restaurants, grocery stores, walking trails
        - Neighborhood priorities: clean-up events, beautification, social events, creating a sense of identity
    - Recommendations
      - Form bonds: clearly state the neighborhood's boundaries; increase awareness of community events; increase presence on social media (twitter & Instagram)
  - Southside Survey
    - Strategies to reach respondents: canvas, local restaurants, local businesses, churches; partnered with Munsee Lanes
      - 44 total respondents; 61% male 38% female
      - Majority of respondents had lived in neighborhood > 20 years or < 1 year
      - Majority of respondents live in neighborhood because it is close to family
    - Responses
      - Strengths/Weaknesses
        - Neighborhood strengths: kind neighbors, safe & family friendly
        - Neighborhood weaknesses: speeding, drugs, not knowing neighbors
      - Consider neighborhood to be a 2 x 2 block area
      - Majority of respondents believe a neighborhood association would be beneficial and they would participate
      - Majority of respondents had not heard of MAP
      - Respondents would like a neighborhood association to address issues of safety, curb appeal and drug prevention
    - Recommendations
      - Neighborhood association would be best if broken into smaller groups (not entire Southside neighborhood); increase awareness of MAP through community promotion; areas of concern to focus on include drug prevention, community gatherings, and community enrichment and beautification
    - Students will conduct a second wave of surveying this summer to try to increase response rate
  - Interested in Future Neighborhood Surveys? Contact Heather Williams to discuss possibilities @ [hlwilliams@bsu.edu](mailto:hlwilliams@bsu.edu)
- **MUGI:** Bailey Shannon, MOMs Market Garden Coordinator ([baileyshannon93@gmail.com](mailto:baileyshannon93@gmail.com))

- **Partnership:** MUGI is a partnership between Motivate our Minds, Muncie-Delaware Clean and Beautiful, and City of Muncie
- **Purpose:** MUGI is a local urban garden initiative; it is a collaborative effort and network of all local gardens including gardens at restaurants, businesses, schools, churches and in neighborhoods.
  - Currently there are 13 active gardens – not including backyard gardens
  - Will take time and community involvement to meet MUGI’s 3 goals, to be:
    - Sustainable
    - Unified
    - Resourceful
- **Potential:**
  - To be a HUB or bank of resources (books, tools, experienced gardeners)
  - To provide workshops and community events
  - To partner with BSU students to provide internship credit
- **Neighborhood Reports:**
  - **Old West End** (Nicole) – April 25<sup>th</sup> scheduled groundbreaking for pocket park – have laid sand and gravel already; park will have sculpture in the center; May 16<sup>th</sup> dedication at Clifton-Wallace Park and planting of memorial tree for John Weinberger
  - **Forest Park** (Mark) – May 2<sup>nd</sup> neighborhood cleanup – have 30-35 people scheduled to help; Senior Center’s executive director is retiring at the end of June – will be hiring a new E.D.; Edey’s Style Show (sponsored by Senior Center’s thrift store) is scheduled for this Saturday 1-3:00 pm; July 25<sup>th</sup> ice-cream social; working on getting unsafe house in the neighborhood either fixed up or torn down
  - **Riverside/Normal City** (Bill) – Mounds Lake Reservoir presentation scheduled for tomorrow night’s neighborhood meeting at 7:00 pm (Hazelwood mansion); Interested to look at the results of the BSU survey & planning students are scheduled to do neighborhood action plan in the fall
  - **Western Woods** (Sylvia) – Riverside/Clarksdale intersection – Duke Campbell scheduled to come speak at the neighborhood meeting tomorrow night
  - **Thomas Park/Avondale** (Mark) – Trying to contact Duke C. about sidewalks & trees; May 9<sup>th</sup> neighborhood cleanup; Unsafe property in neighborhood being demolished; Habitat and Vectren have identified their target area for improvement and it includes part of TP/A and South Central; working with Mayor on quiet zone – would like to keep crossings at 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> closed (neighbors want them to stay closed)
  - **Blaine/Southeast** (Clifford & Isabelle) – Blaine/SE neighborhood flier distribution Friday 12-2:00 pm (playground & May cleanup); GoFundMe site spelling does not include an “h” in Southeast – will redirect you to page not found; held two cleanups of the field – good turnout; Hydrotech to do a Phase 1 of the playground site to determine if they need to do a Phase 2
  - **Robinwood** (Jennifer) – Beautification committee is starting “Yard of the Month” competition; working on a neighborhood directory; welcome committee is working to welcome new neighbors – several recent sales in the neighborhood; Rummage sale scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> 8:00-12:00 pm; July 4<sup>th</sup> is neighborhood parade; considering a walking group; 125/188 residents have paid their yearly dues – block captains are going out and reminding people to pay (money goes towards snow removal and newsletters); identifying potholes using GIS – will take to streets department
  - **Minnetrista** (Stephanie) – Cleanup scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> – need volunteers
  - **Whitely** (Frank) – Building Blocks for Development presentation at this month’s meeting went well – have incentives for participation; holding all-neighborhood cleanup utilizing area leaders and beautification committee
  - **Pettigrew Acres** (John) – Have best year ever – creating partnerships (city to fall trees and neighborhood to clean up and remove; preparing streets and walkways for future work by the city); dues no longer go to snow removal – now able to spend on beautifying the neighborhood

- **South Central** (Lezlie) – getting the association back up and running; first meeting scheduled for next Tuesday; neighborhood cleanup scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> – won award for most weight collected last year
- **East Central** (Lynn) – held quarterly cleanup meeting with Scott Truex presenting on the Maker’s Hub at the old Cintas Building; July neighborhood picnic will take place instead of larger ice cream social event; My 2<sup>nd</sup> neighborhood cleanup
- **Westbrier** (Lynn) – send Blaine/SE PDF – residents might donate to the playground
- **Announcements:**
  - Heather Williams (BBN)
    - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars – looking for mentors within the neighborhoods; Sue Godfrey will be giving a short presentation at the May meeting about the program; are looking for a 1-year commitment to mentor students as they prepare for a future that involves post-secondary education
    - April 27<sup>th</sup> ALL-IN event at the Fairgrounds (5-7:00 pm); will focus on celebrating the history, creativity and inspiration of our local community