

Neighborhood Improvement Meeting
12-6-2022

Present: Alexa, Sam, Bob, Maria, Marty, Charles

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Housekeeping Items

- Add citations to Marty's document – budgeted for 1.4 additional code enforcement positions
- Next meeting, we'll consider recommendations for next year's budget (if current budget is passed)

Discussion

- Licensing for Long-Term Rentals
 - If it is not already in existence, could we recommend a permitting or licensing process for long-term rentals (not just short-term) that is renewed every year?
 - This would ideally be done through the Code Enforcement office.
 - Maria will reach out to Stephen Yerly to confirm the current process.
 - How can we differentiate between students and other long-term renters?
 - College students are not a “protected class”
 - Code enforcement inspects rentals every three years
 - What do these inspections consist of?
 - From Marty
 - The city has allowed unrestricted conversion of housing from owner occupied to rentals
 - Too much student housing
 - From Stephen
 - Inspections (Chapter 86-16 B 1,2,3)
 - every 12 months - Sororities, fraternities, member associations and dormitories (1,2)
 - every 36 months - all residential and commercial rental properties (3)
 - Certifications (aka license?) for residential/partial residential (Chapter 86-18 D,E, F) A certificate is basically the same as a license or an operating permit
 - every 12 months - Sororities, fraternities, member associations (E)
 - every 36 months - all residential and commercial rental properties (D)
 - upon change of use or occupancy - all other residential/partial residential buildings (F) A change of use or occupancy is a reference to the NYS uniform fire code and is referring to a change in the use or occupancy category, not vacating or occupying a previously occupied building. For example changing the occupancy or use category from an R-2 to a R-3 use category under the fire code would trigger an inspection not someone moving in and out of an apartment over the summer.
 - Potential recommendations
 - General
 - For next budget, add 1-2 additional positions specifically to cover regular monitoring of code issues and problem properties

- From Maria
 - College Park, MD example
 - Landlord must provide list of all renters to the city
 - Landlord registration system
- From Sam
 - Oswego example – every year the city sends a letter to all landlords before student move out weekend
 - City goes door to door to make sure properties are taken care of (e.g. no trash on lawn)
 - Ticket is issued to the owner if there are issues

Welcome package

- Bob
 - Welcome committee is willing to include overview of codes to new owners
 - Welcome wagon – includes realtors, presidents of colleges, code
 - Going to include greater Oneonta, not just the city
 - Will reach out to local businesses

Recommendations

- The Neighborhood Improvement group fully endorses the efforts of the Welcome Wagon committee. We suggest they include a packet including codes.
- The Neighborhood Improvement group recommends the city add additional covered garbage cans and recycling receptacles where appropriate.
- The Neighborhood Improvement group recommends the city make attempts to add common green spaces within neighborhoods.
- The Neighborhood Improvement group recommends the city identify and improve areas of the city in need of more or better lighting.
- The Neighborhood Improvement group recommends the city improve biking and walking infrastructure including road paint (sharrows), signage, and research into additional options.

Neighborhood improvement ideas

- Hannah
 - A successful, or improved, neighborhood will have:
 - **Residents who care about where they live**
 - **Diversity and multiculturalism**
 - **Clean and accessible streets, sidewalks, and housing**
 - **Community safety**
 - Addiction services? MH services?
 - **Housing and businesses with attractive/neat exterior facades**
 - **Public spaces, including gathering spots and parks**
 - **Public art**
 - **Native plants and trees**
 - ID non-natives – welcome include in welcome packet?
 - Education
 - Fred Hayes – arborist? works with the city

- Alexa
 - Improved neighborhood definition
 - In general, an *improved neighborhood* is revitalized without being gentrified.
 - Ideal *improved neighborhoods* are mixed income and have community brought to the table often.
 - *Improved neighborhoods* provide a social safety net for its residents by protecting against displacement.
 - *Improved neighborhoods* have a social sense of cohesion and stake in the wellbeing of the community.
 - I see successful neighborhood having
 - Common green space
 - City support of homeowner initiatives
 - Native plants
 - Tree care
 - Historic preservation
 - Community brought together often
- Sam
 - Sense of community
 - Clean, neat, and safe
 - Green spaces
 - Diversity
 - Families
 - Cared-for properties
 - EX: Burlington north end
 - Better lighting
 - Better biking/walking signage
- Marty
 - Respecting each other and having a sense of community
 - More public facilities (garbage, recycling)
 - Incentive for homeowners to take care of their properties
 - grants ?
- Bob
 - Owners and renters who care about where they live
 - Condemnation of abandoned properties
- Maria
 - Cosign everything that's said so far
 - Transportation
 - People can navigate through the city to mitigate the traffic
 - More bike/walk friendly
 - Events within neighborhoods
 - Meetings among wards
 - Ward-wide garage sales

Next Steps

- Sam to write up recommendation re: city of Oswego system
- Hannah to ask Andrew to come to a meeting to speak on behalf of the Public Arts Commission
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