

Neighborhood Improvement Workgroup
09-28-22

Present: Alexa Tumbarello, Maria Agliano, Charles Hartley, Sam Baskin, Bob Holstead, Marty Van Lenten Becker, Hannah Baskin, Mark Drnek

Agenda Items:

- Mark introduced Housing Commission structure and Neighborhood Improvement workgroup mission
- Establish consistent meeting time: **3rd Wednesdays at 6:00 PM**
 - Next meeting is October 19 at the United Methodist Church
- Establish chair of workgroup: **Charles Hartley**

Discussion:

- What do workgroup members see as topics of interest related to neighborhood improvement?
 - Accessibility/walkability (shoveling, maintenance, sidewalks, etc.)
 - Sustainability (native plants and gardens, etc.)
 - New homeowner education/introduction to city codes
 - Landlord properties in disrepair/absentee landlords
 - Student rentals
 - Historic preservation
 - Expansion of code enforcement
 - Consistent maintenance of homes in the city
- Discussion around code enforcement and what can reasonably be expected of property owners and the city
 - We want to hear directly from the Code Enforcement office to better understand constraints and opportunities.
- Discussion around student rentals and how we might work with the landlords and colleges to improve garbage around the city.
- We have a lot of ideas, but identifying funding sources will be a challenge moving forward.
- As a group, we plan to:
 - Educate ourselves,
 - Identify problems,
 - Propose solutions, and
 - Bring recommendations to the Housing Commission.

Action Items:

- Everyone will do an inventory in our neighborhoods to identify common issues, at-risk houses, and positive findings by the next meeting, October 19th.
- Hannah will invite Code Enforcement to the next meeting for discussion.
- Marty will inquire with the United Methodist Church regarding a space for future meetings.
- Hannah will create and share Google drive.
- Charles will create an email thread for ongoing communication.