



Near North Unity Program (NNUP)

Membership Meeting MINUTES

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Monday, July 30th, 2018

Marshall Field Garden Apartment Homes

COMMUNITY CENTER

1406 N. Sedgwick St.

Welcome & Introductions - Randall welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked Charlie Branda and Adele Thomas for hosting NNUP's July meeting at MFGAH. Randall shared that Ben Austen would present first. Randall then asked everyone to take a few minutes to meet / introduce yourself to someone new.

- **Review Question and Answer Guidelines** - Randall reviewed the guidelines for those in attendance.
 - One question per person, one follow up question and then the meeting facilitator will move on to the next community member's question.
- **Community 'Spotlight'**
 - **Art on Sedgwick**
 - Charlie Branda, Founder & President - Randall introduced Charlie and thanked her for hosting NNUP at MFGAH community center. Charlie shared Art On Sedgwick's vision video and shared that her idea for Art On Sedgwick was born out of her 'unshakeable' idea for an art center in our community that would be a place where diverse people/neighbors could come together.
 - Upcoming events: Community art show with neighborhood schools; Manierre, Franklin, Immaculate Conception, & Catherine Cook
 - John Bakker, Artist in Residence spoke regarding Edgar Miller legacy event with artist Sharon Blackcomb (actually knew Edgar Miller) - created stained glass windows.
 - Paint & Sip - every 2nd Saturday of Each month from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
 - After School matters class - students created figure drawings to represent self to teach self reliance. Created art on glass shop windows in the community.
 - Q - Any plans to bring Jenner/Ogden to the organization
 - Open to it!
 - Q - Do you have to be a resident @MFGAH?
 - Honor system to join/scholarship
 - Q - Ages for classes?
 - All ages & family classes
 - Q - How do we get more information on classes?
 - Paper forms available, brochures outside window
 - Q - Any upcoming school programs?
 - Yes, Kite project from last year will be 're-booted' with improvements
 - Q - Can you speak about the Adult/student kite project from last year?
 - Yes, Eighth graders that had already had photography foundation were partnered with adults from the community to participate in interviews and create kites.

- High-Risers
 - Cabrini Green and the Fate of American Public Housing
 - Ben Austen, Author - Randall Introduced Ben and welcomed him to present and take questions about his recent book. Ben Stated he spent 6 years working/researching, attended many NNUP meetings and began writing the year the last tower in Cabrini came down in 2011.
 - Ben took Questions - here are some of them below:
 - Q - Was there a surprise or 'aha' moment when you were doing research for the book?
 - A - How much media was coming out of the neighborhood, receives lots of media attention, community members interviewed frequently. The fact that myth and reality shape each other, i.e. unsafe place to live, 40% of resident move out and streets and san stop service thereby making it less desirable.
 - Q - What were the positive aspects you discovered about the Cabrini community?
 - A - It was a community, a brotherhood
 - Q - What Activists were highlighted in your book?
 - A - Delores Wilson, Kelvin Cannon, JR. Fleming, Annie Ricks (last resident)
 - Q - Is Marian Stamps in the book?
 - A - Yes, her gang truce negotiation, reason residents come back
 - Q - Are there examples of systemic injustice?
 - A - Federally backed home loan access - African Americans excluded
 - Q - You spoke of micro improved areas, what are those?
 - A - NNUP, Art On Sedgwick, merger of Jenner & Ogden, the fact that affordable housing is back on the agenda
 - Q - What about housing for larger families?
 - A - spoke about project based vouchers and multi unit apartments
 - Q - Is Chicago Tutoring in your book?
 - A - yes and many programs that lift people up, so many here that are celebrated

Announcements

- **Suggestion Box** at the check in table - please feel free to drop off suggestions for NNUP
- **NNUP will be 'On the Move'** and hosting the NNUP Monthly meetings at different locations throughout our community - stay tuned for more information and location announcements
- Aug 7 - 018 District National Night Out, 1160 N. Larrabee
- Aug 7 - NNUP Community Walk to 018 District National Night Out, meeting at Cornerstone Center, 1111 N. Wells, 4:45 pm
- Aug 7 - NNUP's 'Chalk the Walk' in conjunction with 018 District National Night Out 4 pm
- Aug 8 - Near North Park Community meeting with Chicago Park District, Stanton Park, 618 W. Scott St., 6pm
- Aug 9 - CPS Network 6 Back to School Bash, 2 pm, Crane HS, 2245 W. Jackson
- Aug 10 - Jazz Fest at Seward Park, 375 W. Elm St., 6 pm
- Aug 11 & 12 - Near North Food Truck Fest, on Sedgwick between Chicago & Locust, 11 am to 8 pm
- Aug 24 - Jazz Fest at Seward Park, 375 W. Elm St., 6 pm
- Aug 25 - Alderman Burnett's Annual 'Stay in School' Picnic, Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph St., 10 am to 5 pm
- Aug 31 - Jazz at Seward Park Rain Date, 375 W. Elm, 6pm

