

MINUTES

Buffalo/Erie County Safe Neighborhoods Initiative Meeting #1 – Monday, February 4, 2013 at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting began at 2:40 p.m.

PRESENT:

Jeffrey Conrad, Chair
Tim Hogues, Vice Chair
Betty Jean Grant, Ex-Officio
Dwayne Ferguson
Marilyn Gibson
Gregory Brice
David Bradley
Paulette Woods
Murray Holman
Beverly Newkirk
Lesley Haynes
Ted Hampton
Kenya Hobbs
Vicki Ross
George Johnson
Jerome Dixon
John Glascott
Sherry Sherrill

Chairman Jeffrey Conrad gave an introduction:

- We're not going to spend our way out of this issue.
- We have to find policy solutions for Common Council and the Legislature to enact.
- This is a complex issue and we're going to have to try new things.

Chairman Conrad went around the room and asked each member to give a brief introduction.

Chairman Conrad then led a discussion about forming four subcommittees: Employment, Healthcare, Education, Youth and Community Collaboration. A sheet will be passed around at the next meeting for members to sign up for the subcommittees.

Chairman Conrad said:

- We want to showcase programs that are operating in our community and get the information out to communities that need the help. We're letting them know what we each do and how we can help.

Dave Bradley said:

- There are more people out of work than there are jobs available. Are the politicians capable of dealing with that?

Legislator Betty Jean Grant said:

- There are jobs available in construction and in the medical corridor.
- We want to give education so they can get jobs available.
- We need to have our youth prepared to take jobs when they're coming.

Gregory Brice:

- People have to lower their standards a little bit.
- That \$100,000 job is not going to fall out of the sky.

Murray Holman:

- Concerned that community centers aren't open late. Wants more collaboration with city and county.
- Delavan-Grider Center isn't open after 3 p.m.

Geroge Johnson:

- The Board of Education needs to be at the table. Schools are closing at 3, then kids are on the street.
- There are too many homeless kids. We have to provide some place for them to go.

Dwayne Ferguson:

- We must deal with parents at home by letting our parents take classes.
- Parents should be able to go to the community centers, too.

Beverly Newkirk:

- You have to reach people at their brokenness. You have to change the way they think.

Chairman Conrad:

- Louisville formed a similar task force to deal with violence.
- All subcommittees came up with policy agendas. They had 80 recommendations.

Lesley Haynes:

- It's impossible for felons to get employed. We want support for young people once they get out through community reentry and mentoring.

Vicki Ross:

- We need community-based family support programs.
- As a social worker, I don't think the medical model is a helpful mental health.

Gregory Brice:

- The spiritual piece must be included.

Sherry Sherrill:

- Not everyone is from same spirituality, so you run risk of alienating persons but diluting greater message.
- We must have an assessment/measurement/survey system.

Chairman Conrad:

encouraged everyone to read united way needs assessment before next meeting
good information in income and educational portions
we can develop our measurements out of that document
come back with recommendations to next meeting
gates foundation study relating education to mental health, incarceration, social service costs, all
directly related to education
GED task force in buffalo

George Johnson:

- Wants to see youth on the committee.

Chairman Conrad:

- Will bring BPS in to talk about alternative schools, programs they that might know about.

Vicki Ross:

- Wants a non-violence task force.

John Glascott:

- One of the things we need to nail down is mission statement.
- All committees can then get together and talk about how to get there.

Chairman Conrad:

- Will be drafting a mission statement so we can have approval next time.
- From the subcommittees, we want to bring recommendations forward and we'll advance that to the full committee.
- Next meeting, we'll break down who wants to be involved in committees.
- We'll have meetings once a month for at least first six months.
- Meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month at 2 p.m.
- Next meeting is Monday, March 4, 2013 at 2 p.m. at the Erie County Legislature