

WSW May 2013 Meeting Minutes

Hi Neighbors,

We had a small but very productive meeting on Tuesday, May 21st

-Attending our meeting was Allen Stehle, President of Beal College. Mr. Stehle heads up the Community Policing course offered at the College. Also with him, were students Dan Townsend and Wanda Cleaves. The students expressed the desire to work with Bangor's neighborhood watch groups and to assist in any way they can. They challenged us with many questions including how we raise funds for our group, how we were formed, why we were formed and what are our goals are to name a few. They also provided us with many excellent ideas on how to raise funds for our group. Ideas such as: yard-sales, bottle drives, walkathons, requests for donations from local business to name a few. In regards to raising money, Tim has offered to act as treasurer for our group. Thank you Tim!

-As our current website is due to expire, we talked about making changes to our website to be more informative as well as keeping it fresh and interesting. Exciting changes to come!

-We went over ideas on making our National Night Out event bigger and better. The event will be held on Tuesday, August 6th from 6pm-8pm at 2nd St Park.

We discussed collaborating with the East Side Watch in forming a National Night Out committee. I will schedule a meeting to invite both groups to join this committee. More to follow

-The Oxford Program was addressed. This program is in place to smooth the transition for individuals from prison to life outside of prison. The concept is a landlord will work with the city to house these people. There will be strict restrictions with prompt repercussions the moment any rule is broken. Officer Jason has looked into this. The statistics of enforcement for this program show no outside disturbances to the community. Although it is not in Bangor yet, it will be coming here. The location is not yet known.

-We talked about what our expectations were for the revitalization meeting that was being held at the James Doughty School on Thursday, May 23rd.

Items we discussed at the WSW that were reviewed at the Revitalization meeting were:

- Skate Park at 2nd Street Park. In response to Rosie's email asking for thoughts on putting in a skate park, there was a 10 to 10 response. 10 against and 10 in favor. The question was asked as to how many of the 10 in favor lived in close proximity to the park. That question was not answered. There were two people that did stand up to talk on behalf of putting in the skate park in 2nd St Park. One of these individuals lives outside of Bangor, the other lives on James Street (which is by the Thomas Hill Standpipe). Several members of the WSW (that live in close proximity to the park) spoke against putting the skate park in 2nd St Park.
- Additional street lights/ changing current streetlights to lights that are similar to the new ones on the waterfront. There are plans being discussed in putting up the Pedestrian scale streetlights in the revitalization area.
- Paving/Sidewalks not scheduled in our area for 2013. As the potential for sewer and water lines requiring maintained during the revitalization, it would not be financially prudent to pave now and dig the pavement back up later.
- Scrutinize permits and codes. There are plans being discussed in creating new enforcement codes such as fire marshal inspections for multi family homes, exterior surveys from the street, rental registration, out reach to the landlords, and abandoned property ordinances.

- Timelines for the revitalization. Although there is not a timeline in place, there are plans to cut back tree limbs that obscure the light from the streetlights. There will possibly be other improvements we will see this year.
- Natural Gas on every street. There are talks with the City of Bangor and Bangor Gas in regards to making natural gas available in the revitalization area.
- The presentation was well done and very informative. You can find the presentation here http://www.bangormaine.gov/image_upload/BusinessCommunityPresentation.pdf

I strongly encourage all of you to bookmark the revitalization site in order kept abreast on the revitalization activity as it progresses http://www.bangormaine.gov/index.php?id=2&sub_id=2051

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 25th. 6 to 8 at the BPD. We look forward to seeing you there!