

# **Business Owners & Organizations Meeting Notes – Meeting 3 - June 4, 2015**

## **Introductions**

The group was initially asked “What is one thing within the community that makes you smile?” Responses from the recipients included:

- A) Well-kept rose gardens on Bagley
- B) Installation of Street Lights
- C) The people
- D) People sweeping the streets
- E) Youth projects in the neighborhood
- F) Smells when crossing the bridge
- G) Radio’s blasting “Mr. Bigshot”
- H) Vibrancy of the neighborhood
- I) When I see Mike K in this truck, I wonder what he is up to?

## **Discussion: Business District Needs**

### **St. Anne church selling parking to Ambassador Bridge**

The group had multiple concerns over the new development happening around the Ambassador Bridge. The bridge company would turn the plaza in front of the bridge into a parking lot – contingent on approval by the city council. Business owners are concerned about the bridge company acting now all of a sudden. Members were also concerned on what happens if the parking is not approved. Parking has already been bad around the church that having less could make things increasingly worse. The group hopes to invite council members to the next meeting to discuss plaza issues, random speculator properties, and the St. Anne church.

### **Speculators in the neighborhood**

Work group members noted that they want a solidified voice within the community that advocates for responsible land ownership. They want each owner to be accountable for keeping their properties within code and punishing those harder if they do not. Sharing information on who owns what within the community is important.

## **Need more garbage cans – idea to not leave a mess anywhere**

Business owners and the Vista team both agree that people within the community would dump waste less if there were more garbage cans throughout the community. Garbage cans would need to be fixed to the property. Besides garbage cans, the group wishes to have signage and more education on the importance of not disposing of random waste. Owners also talked about the pros and cons of businesses paying into a bid option vs each property owner being responsible for their own garbage can. Lastly the owners wished to get into contact with whoever is in charge of doing the garbage cans on Vernor.

## **Vista Partnership Updates**

- a. June 6th, Neighborhood Beautification Day, 8 am to noon, sites throughout neighborhood
- b. June 10 Artist appreciation event – Artist or cultural activist
  - a. Inside St. Anthony's
  - b. 5:30 – 8:00
- c. July 23 - Next Vista Community gathering
  - a. Pocket park and St. Anthony's
  - b. If you are interested in setting the agenda, contact Dan.
  - c. 5:30-8:00
- d. Three Pocket Parks in the community
  - a. Between Honeybee and Our Detroit
  - b. Next to Matrix Theatre
  - c. On 25<sup>th</sup> and Bagley
  - d. All are open and accessible to the community!
- e. Vista Wall installation
  - a. Wall planted on corner of 24<sup>th</sup> and Bagley!
  - b. Over 100 unique responses!
- f. St Anthony Rehab
  - a. Open for events as of June 10th
- g. Vista Web Site [www.vistapartnership.org](http://www.vistapartnership.org)

## Signage Discussion

### **What other work groups are hoping to do**

The business owners work group is not the only group who are working improving the signage within the community. The Arts & Culture group and Communication work group are also working on a few ideas. These ideas included having a walkability map that promotes health and fitness and a mural/placemat map of the community to promote key areas. Members stated that it is crucial that there are handouts accessible to all members of the community. Another suggestion was about having information on businesses placed outside their building to help communicate their history to everyone who passes by.

### **When, Where, How**

“How many times have you been asked directions?” Most group members nodded their head implying that they are frequently asked directions. Team members quickly discussed how they can move the signage issue forward. The idea of Green Mapping was shared and discussed. Another suggestion proposed was having a large project as opposed to a bunch of smaller projects. The group agreed that there would need to be the creation of a subcommittee. The goal of the subcommittee would be to gather a plan from all groups and then work on designing a theme around all of them. This group would need to look at short term vs long term signage within the area.

Suggestions that the Business Owner work group would like to take into the small group would include potentially using Honeybee as a starting point in the community, adding information on murals, and providing information on getting on the freeway. The viaduct would be a starting place, but it would still need to be taken care of. A final suggestion was provided that suggested putting plants outside along the street to help beautify the community. The goal would be to invite all businesses to participate, but not necessarily to wait for everyone to agree. The hope is that all businesses would see it happening and gladly join in.

## **Individual Business Update**

- a. Allstate/Giovanna's Lounge
  - i. Insurance coverage followed by a drink after.
- b. Matrix Theatre
  - i. Precious Little Performance
  - ii. Dreaming at Daybreak Breakfast fundraiser
- c. Our Detroit Pocket Park
  - i. Breaking ground Saturday morning 8:00 A.M.-Noon
- d. More businesses coming – Expansion of Café Con Leche
- e. Farm and Garden
  - i. Fresh
- f. Tech Town SWAT City
  - i. Supporting the business community
  - ii. Helping to impact the businesses ability to be successful
- g. ProsperUs
  - i. 300 graduates + another 100 current students in ProsperUs
  - ii. Helping grow out of homes into brick and mortar establishments
- h. VISTA Partnership
  - i. Visit the Facebook page for Vista
  - ii. Stop by the Vista Wall

## **Next Meeting Date**

The next business owners meeting will be on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. 8:30 at St. Anthony Building –3553 W. Vernor – Across from Lithuanian Hall.