

**North End Neighborhood Organization  
Land Use and Housing Committee  
Tuesday August 28, 2018 Report**

Heard a presentation from Michael Buelow regarding Rice Street Flats (development at Sycamore and Rice) and a tax credit application to rehab owned properties.

**Recommends approval** for 1176 Dale Street: Angie's Auto Sales LLC, Julio Aguilar-Second Hand Motor Vehicle and Auto Repair Garage-*change in ownership of an existing licensed location*

**Recommends approval** regarding Como/Front/Dale as an opportunity site and creation of an ad hoc committee. An opportunity site is a location where development includes job creation. It also will assist in future funding and opportunities.

A meeting with NENO, D10, Ward offices, the Port Authority and PED will be scheduled. An adhoc committee to monitor Como/Front/Dale will be created with one member each from NENO and D10, staff and other identified stakeholders.

**Recommends moving forward on a Large Area Plan Update** focusing on a Shared Vision for Revitalization so the plan would define neighborhood priorities following the template but also look towards revitalizing the neighborhood. In creating a vibrant neighborhood plan that recognizes that planning has to include not only hard infrastructure; zoning, land planning, open spaces, parks, economic development, transportation and communication but also how the neighborhood will be revitalized to achieve the planning goals.

**Recommends seating** Dareld Meggit to the Land Use & Housing Committee (email vote)

**Chair:** Matt Sletten agreed to be the interim chair

**Public Comments**

Wendy Zarse read a statement regarding the River East and how the project was handled.

*Two years ago, we learned about SPPS purchasing land across the street from our homes. We immediately began making inquiries into the process, and still continue to do so. This included connecting with our city council representative, who brought us to the Land Use Committee. We wanted SPPS to be more transparent in their activities and receptive to our input about what was happening in our neighborhood. After a gathering of neighbors and SPPS representatives, a wish list of residents' concerns was generated for SPPS to respond to. One item on that list, the installation of a permanent, exterior basketball hoop, was brought before this (Land Use) committee to have a discussion on. That discussion led to an agreement between this committee and SPPS to hold off on further discussion for at least 2.5 years, unless SPPS could bring a satisfactory compromise back to the neighbors. Here we*

are, a year and a half later wondering how there stands a permanent basketball hoop outside of the school, in front of our homes.

I started a new quest for information once I realized that the area was being prepared for the hoop's installation in early June. I sent Kerry an email. Her response was only that the committee voted on it. All further inquiries were met with either no response, a 'this has been forwarded to the Chair' response, or 'please attend a meeting' response. In essence, no response at all. So, I have had to come up with my own storyline, by piecing together what I can find on the D6 website.

Your own committee minutes from January of this year states that if the issue of a basketball hoop at River East is to be revisited, "there will need to be a community process." I don't know what your definition of a community process is, because I am a member of this community, and I was not part of any such process. I am actually the community member that led to this being brought to the attention of D6 in the first place.

At least 5 of the 7 members present for that meeting were well aware of who the community members were that should have been included in that planned revival. What makes it even more questionable is that this comment came "unofficially from the board." How does a major blunder of not knowing how to properly run an organization come unofficially, from anywhere?

Yes, a major blunder! Or, in official terms, a technicality. That is the excuse I have now been expected, 8 months after the fact, to accept. Apparently, your leaders don't know what they are doing and they are trying to pass the buck by saying 'Oops!' But, how does an organizational error turn into denying your fellow community members an outlet for communication? We were blatantly left out of the game so that D6 and SPPS could dance happily into the sunset together. We still have so many questions, because none of them are getting answered by you and your associates.

So, this is what I have concluded about D6 and their leadership:

They have exposed their true intentions.

They are incompetent in their understanding of organizational structure.

They failed to be honest and transparent over the past 8 months.

They think that the concerns of community members have no merit and can be ignored. They think that residents can be bullied into silence.

D6 is not a trustworthy organization.

Wendy Zarse  
District 6 Resident