



Northeastern Neighborhood Network (NNN)

Tuesday, July 26, 2016

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Summary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. with a tour of The Nest, the University's first residence hall. The tour was led by the director of the residence hall as well as a representative from American Campus Communities. After the tour, the group continued with the formal part of the meeting in the President's Conference Room.

The following members were in attendance: Brienne Ahearn (North River Commission - NRC), Anne Klosinski (Hollywood-North Park Community Association) and Jack Smith (North Park Village Nature Village). Representing the University were President Sharon Hahs, Mike Dizon (Chief Communications Officer) and Interim University Police Chief Paul Kruszynski.

Member organizations that were absent included: 17th District Police, 39th Ward Alderman's Office, Telshe Yeshiva, Albany Park Neighbors, Albany Park Chamber of Commerce, Albany Park Neighborhood Council, Chicago Korean Chamber of Commerce, Northside Learning Center, Peterson Elementary School, Peterson Pulaski Business and Industrial Council, Volta Elementary School, Von Steuben High School, Northside College Prep and Bohemian National Cemetery.

UNIVERSITY UPDATES

University President Sharon Hahs and Chief Communications Officer Mike Dizon shared a number of updates from Northeastern.

- President's retirement
 - President Hahs informed the group of her decision to retire on September 30, saying that the time was right for a transition now that the University received stopgap funding that will carry Northeastern into the fall.
 - She also said that it would benefit the University to have steady leadership already in place before the University publicly embarks on its first comprehensive fundraising campaign and goes through the lengthy process of reaffirmation of regional accreditation.
 - Earlier in the day, Northeastern's Board of Trustees held a special meeting in which it appointed Provost Richard Helldobler as Interim President for 18 months starting October 1. He will participate in the next NNN meeting that is scheduled for the fall.

- President Hahs emphasized that the University is stable even though the \$30 million it received in stopgap funding falls short of a full budget.
- She also reminded the NNN that the University will celebrate its sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary in the fall of 2017.

■ Facilities

- Answering a question from the representative of the North Park Village Nature Center, President Hahs shared that the current occupancy of The Nest residence hall is exceeding expectations and will officially open on August 19.
- Approximately 215 leases have been signed and approximately 80 applications (most of which are expected to convert into leases) are being processed. These figures surpass the occupancy goals for the residence hall, which will be operating well above the break-even point.
 - Of the current leases, the geographic diversity of the residents was noted. Roughly 10 cities in Illinois had at least three residents represented. Other residents will be coming from farther distances, representing about 7-8 states and 7-8 countries.
- Regarding Northeastern's acquisition of the nearby Bryn Mawr block, President Hahs reported that the University has been allowing merchants to continue operating their businesses. The University's current focus is on The Nest, and it will not begin preparing for Phase 2 of its plan to build on the Bryn Mawr block until The Nest is fully operational. Even after that happens, the President stated that she predicts about one year for planning and another year for construction.
- On the topic of a new child care facility on the Main Campus, the President said there are no current plans for it, and it is unlikely to go through construction without grant funding.

■ NEIU Community Involvement

- Early Voting: As a service to the community, Northeastern will again be an early-voting polling site this November in advance of the General Election.
- NEIU Weekend, September 16-17, 2016: Continuing the success of last year's community block party on its Main Campus, Northeastern will host another event this year that will feature live music, food, kids activities, local vendors and a beer garden. The event will take place on Friday, September 16, and it is part of a larger NEIU Weekend celebration for alumni. The Friday night festivities open to the public, and our neighbors are encouraged to attend.
- Jazz Night, 7 p.m., Wednesday, August 10: The University's Jazz Ensemble will host another outdoor live music event in the University

Commons. The performance is open to the public, and attendees are encouraged to bring their blankets, picnic baskets, friends and families.

■ University Police Updates

- Interim Police Chief Kruszynski discussed the recent and increasing reports of stolen tires and catalytic converters from vehicles parked in the neighborhood closest to the Main Campus. One incident occurred recently on the 5500 block of Saint Louis Avenue in front of the C Building. University Police is aware of the theft and is monitoring the situation with Chicago Police.
- Chief Kruszynski also talked about the new, multi-unit senior living complex that is being built at the North Park Village Nature Center. Construction is expected to be completed in May 2017. Until then, drivers might experience occasional traffic congestion on Bryn Mawr Avenue just west of the Main Campus while construction takes place.

■ Other News

- The University's El Centro location, which opened in fall 2014 at the intersection of Kimball Avenue and the Kennedy Expressway, has recently received LEED Gold certification, which reflects the building's adherence to environmentally friendly and sustainable practices.

NEIGHBORHOOD INFO / OPEN DISCUSSION

■ During a roundtable discussion, NNN members shared the following updates:

- The HNPCA representative, who currently acts as the Association's Recording Secretary, said that they will conduct an election for officers this fall. She said HNPCA encourages those in the community who are interested to run for one of the positions.
- The representative from the North River Commission, who serves on the NRC as the Education Coordinator, mentioned that the Commission is continuing its partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). She said she is also working hard to incorporate an education element in that planning.
- The representative from the North Park Village Nature Center mentioned that a new restaurant, Community Cafe, has opened in the area but that parking and travel to the restaurant can sometimes be difficult for those who are not residents of the Center.

The NNN meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m. The next meeting of NNN will be scheduled for November.