



Rochesterians Engaging in Action for the Chronically Homeless

PO Box 10845, Rochester, NY, 14610

reachrochester@gmail.com reachadvocacy.org

REACH Advocacy Minutes September 24, 2018

We welcomed several new people to our REACH meeting today:

- Kiera, a 4th year medical student who has volunteered to organize a med student group to volunteer at REACH Home
- Susan Maxwell, a retired RN whose specialty was in psychiatric work.

The September 10 Minutes and Sept 24 Agenda were approved.

Thank you to Oscar for a reflection using the Serenity Prayer. He felt this prayer can be powerful in many ways.

- Next meeting Reflection: October 15, Marcia.

REACH Home 2018

- We are hoping to use the same location as last year on Dimitri House property
- Andy has a lead on a backup place, if needed
 - The Eviction Marshall, Anthony Pelosi, has a vacant 20-bedroom building, but the rental cost may be high
- Design changes: If we use 102 N. Union Street, we could make a side entrance for smoking, decrease traffic in kitchen, better for new residents to enter from the front where there is a shower and intake staff right there. Possibility of redoing women's side upstairs bathroom to create another working shower. Create a dining room in the room next to kitchen, need to strengthen the porch deck, Dan will put together a plan of action
- Laurie informs us we need to clean up and repaint the flaking lead paint on the window sills to get a certificate of occupancy
- Back Up Plans:
 - Calvary St. Andrews Church, South Wedge, Averill and Ashland, possible, need a contact to talk to
 - Marcia knows the Block Club leaders. Marcia will talk to the people she knows.

Tiny Home Village

- Review of the meeting with the city held in August
 - Representatives from: Business and Housing Development, City Assessor, Building Codes, Environmental Quality, Housing Manager and the Law Department spent about an hour and a half with REACH members asking us questions about our plans and answering our questions
 - Some were enthusiastic about the idea, but most were realistic about the steps we need to go through
 - The city does not currently have any zoning regulations for Tiny Homes
 - There is a possibility that they could fall under the category of a condominium
 - The result was that no one said we could not create a Tiny Home Village
 - One first step to is to get a phase one environmental site assessment
- Possibility of two houses in the area on Avenue A backing up to the property that could house services and a shelter as well as a community gathering place for the Tiny Home Village

- Peter was speaking at church with some men who are at the Open-Door Mission and asked how much they could afford in rent. Their response was about \$400 a month.
- Rochester doesn't have much decent housing for \$400 a month
- We need to stop talking about homelessness as the individual's fault and think of people as housing challenged or housing vulnerable
- The long-range vision is to have a mixed community of people who are housing challenged with limited resources such as the homeless, seniors who need to downsize, college students with high loans and little income who will be in the area for a few years
- Report on City of Refuge, 1169 St. Paul Street
 - Three blocks of land on St. Paul Street, city owns two with the City of Refuge building in the middle
 - City of Refuge is breaking zoning regulations by having a church meet in a private home, but if they build a sanctuary on the back they will be OK
 - This is their dream
 - Pastor Santos has had some health problems
 - We are trying to get consistent communication going between us
- Review of Nana, the RIT architecture professor's plan
 - Two graduate students are working on site plans and designs for us
 - They will be ready by December
- Review of Site Progress
 - RIT and Brockport, 70 students, worked to clear the lots in August as part of an incoming freshman service day
 - They had good weather and cleared some of the property, pulling up weeds and roots
 - All are welcome at 11698 St. Paul Street! River RaFT, Restoring Forgotten Terrain, River Romance Weekend, Saturday, October 6, 1 – 3, come join volunteers who will work to get the riverbank on the property completely cleaned.

Announcements, Upcoming Events

- **Monday, October 1:** Board Creation and Development, 3-6pm, at Village Gate, 274, North Goodman Street, light refreshments, long time REACH members will be getting invitations from Mary Hadley
- **Saturday, October 6,** 1-3, 1169 St. Raul Street, River RaFT, see above
- **October 13:** St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene, 3-6pm, South Fitzhugh Street, "Housing Challenges in Rochester," speakers such as Sister Grace, James Murphy, people from the Homeless Union and Renters Union as well as individuals experiencing homelessness
- Kiera met with Dr. Swanger, he is willing to work with medical students at REACH Home every other week, and potentially a doctor can come the other week
- Susan may potentially be volunteering every week to work with residents on mental health issues
- Lulu is working on a staff handbook and revised rules
- Cornell was in jail but was acquitted.

Next Meeting: October 1, CauseWave, 3:00 – 6:00 pm

October 15, REACH Advocacy, 2:00 – 3:30 pm Peter, Sarah and Marge will be out of town,

Andy will facilitate the meeting but someone needs to take notes.

Items for the Agenda: REACH Home 2018-19