

Summary of the Meeting on May 25, 2022

1. We had 8 residents join in-person and about another dozen residents join via Zoom on a busy and beautiful night in the Canal District.
2. Miranda Hotham from Worcester Green Corps (WGC) joined us and shared info about what her group is doing in Worcester and how they can help us in the neighborhood.
 - a. Website: <https://worcestergreencorps.org/>
 - b. We want to start a regularly scheduled monthly neighborhood clean-up. We need 2-3 volunteers who can help coordinate. WGC will provide supplies, coordinate trash pick-up, etc. Please let me know if you can help.
 - c. There was some discussion on how we can get more trash cans back in the neighborhood and make sure the trash gets picked up with regular frequency before it overflows. More to come on that topic.
3. WPD Officer Sean Lovely was unable to join us at the last-minute unfortunately so we did not get an update. We discussed the following:
 - a. Traffic count data on Water St which should be available soon
 - b. The new Precinct based system for WPD
 - c. Surveillance concerns
 - d. There is an upcoming Public Safety Committee Meeting on June 1 regarding the Surveillance Drone that WPD is planning to purchase. The Flyer is attached.
4. There was a discussion of the May 16 Meeting the City held about Polar Park
 - a. Summary of the City Meeting on May 16:
 - i. The Meeting was focused on parking (at the City Officials direction).
 - ii. The City did not offer any real updates nor solutions
 - iii. There will be another meeting on Monday, September 12 where the City will provide more information
 - iv. Businesses were generally concerned about game days
 - v. If you have access to the Telegram & Gazette you can read about the meeting by clicking meeting [here](#)
 - b. At our meeting we discussed the following:
 - i. The parking plan is built around WooSox gamedays and there needs to be different rules for gamedays versus non-gamedays. There are 8760 hours in the year and for about 8000 of those hours (non game-time) parking isn't an issue.
 - ii. Everyone is frustrated with how the City has handled parking and the effect on residents and businesses in the neighborhood
 - iii. Police details still don't make sure pedestrians can cross Green Street with any regularity. Some officers control traffic and crossing and some do not
 - iv. It was again suggested to consider closing off Green Street on gameday weekends to traffic and allowing vendors, existing businesses, etc to use the pedestrian street to create a street fair/carnival type atmosphere for weekend homestands
 - v. It was also again noted that game start times have a big impact on the neighborhood. The 4:05 start on Saturday has been good for the businesses with patrons before and after games. It would be great if the Sunday start could be pushed back to 2:05pm to get the same kind of activity.

5. Updates from Last Meeting
 - a. We discussed how there had been no progress from the City on the traffic/safety issues they had promised to address. We are going to circulate petitions to address the following with the Council and Parking & Transportation Committee so we can get these issues resolved:
 - i. 290 exit ramp onto Water St. There is still no permanent solution that anyone was aware of currently. It was noted that neighbors regularly replace the barrels preventing an illegal left turn which get scattered all over. If the barrels are not there cars continue to make dangerous, illegal left turns.
 - ii. Petition to remove the "No right turn on red" for Water Street at Grafton. The City takes over this intersection from MassDot on June 1 and the "reason" for this no longer exists with 28 Water Street being complete. The hope is this will stop the traffic backing up onto the exit ramp, etc.
 - iii. Harding St./Winter St. intersection remains a dangerous four-way stop that needs better signage or a light. It's worse right now as the trees on Harding Street block the view of one of the stop signs. The City promised a "study" of this intersection but that never happened.
 - iv. The intersection of Franklin/Harding right behind Union Station
 1. There needs to be a signed and lighted crosswalk to safely allow pedestrians to cross Franklin to reach Union Station
 2. There should be a stop sign on Franklin St, right now it's basically a three-way intersection with 2-way stop which is very confusing for drivers
 - b. Construction on the Cove Development will begin in September. If you have any issues related to the construction you can call the Project Manager: Hollis Leary. I can provide his number.
6. New Issues and Updates:
 - a. There was a discussion of how to get more publicly available EV charging stations in the neighborhood. A small group is going to work on research to try and make that happen.
 - b. Pickett Park is now open and looks great. Everyone was disappointed to see the corporate "Rockland Trust" branding and signage throughout what they are calling "Rockland Trust Plaza"
 - c. Worcester Now | Worcester Next is a Master Planning process underway
 - i. Everyone is urged to take the survey here: <https://now-next.worcesterma.gov/>
 - ii. More info is available here on the full process: <https://www.worcesterma.gov/planning-regulatory/planning-initiatives/worcesternext>
 - d. Worcester Complete Streets allows us to provide input on planning for prioritization of initiatives in our neighborhood
 - i. You can provide input here: <https://tooledesign.github.io/Worcester-Complete-Streets/>
 - e. There are ongoing Board of Election Hearings (flyer attached)