

## Report on Westside Neighborhood Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 1-2:30pm

At the Saratoga Springs Senior Center

Panelists were: Mayor Meg Kelly, Public Safety Commissioner Peter Martin, Senior Center Director Lois Celeste and MSAC co-chair Barbara Thomas. Public Works Commissioner Skip Scirocco was not able to attend due to snowfall.

Nineteen members of the public attended, plus MSAC members and Agency Representatives. Early in the meeting, before all attendees were present, we asked how people became aware of the meeting: Flyers (2); newspaper (3); senior center (2).

Most of the questions and statements had to do with traffic concerns:

- Speed along East Ave, between Lake and Union –suggestion from questioner that there be more stop signs.
- People not aware that they should have their lights on in the rain.
- Request for another accessible parking space near the Farmer’s Market and Spring Valley Apartments.
- Enforcement of traffic rules on West Avenue, between Washington and Church. And concern about the danger of the center turning lane.
- Need for cross walks on Union Ave.
- Need for a media campaign aimed at both pedestrians and drivers about proper use and response to a cross walk.
- Signage and accessible parking spaces in private lots. Need for more than paint on the ground (which would be under snow).

Other concerns:

- Request for more funding for Senior Center.
- City Hall fire and appropriate rebuilding and impact on the City’s budget.
- Anger at the presence of homeless people in our City.
- Request for a shuttle bus to get from parking lots to Broadway.
- Need for a new ordinance spelling out the rights of tenants
- Difficulty of finding accessible parking at the City Center on Election Day (barriers prevent easy and close access)
- Request for more trolley service..

Comments:

- Meg explained that the fire at City Hall was caused by a freak sideways lightning strike that could not have been prevented. The water damage was from rain water pouring into the building – not from plumbing or fighting the fire.
- Peter explained that there are constraints on creating accessible parking spaces and traffic safety considerations in creating crosswalks. Also, pointed out that it is not illegal to be homeless.
- Lois explained the transportation that can be available through Senior Connections, the Senior Center van and the Office for Aging. She made a plea for more volunteers.
- Our Police do a good job.
- Meg stated that we need a Housing First program in SS.