

4501 Butler Street Meeting Notes

Topic: 4501 Butler Street

9th Ward Neighborhood Block Watch

Approximately 37 people attended

Presenting: Joel Bolden and Chris Morgan

Morgan's BBQ: Three employees from Brooklyn location

Public Safety Update, see Block Watch meeting minutes for full report

Public Safety announcement: Officer Antoine Davis, Zone 2 Police: Town Hall meeting, September 28 at 7:00 pm. Lawrenceville Branch of the Carnegie Public Library 279 Fiske Street

311 Update

Wendy Urbanic:

- 10th anniversary this year
- Progress continues in Lawrenceville with engaging the community
- 311 and Lawrenceville United have the same goal – to provide inclusive, resident-driven community-based services for the benefit of the community. – inserted and paraphrased from the website
- 311 has gotten new software and can create individual accounts for individual requests for tracking community problems
- 311 has expanded its hours of operation from 7am-7pm (confirm)
- Social media (text, tweet) is an effective way to communicate with 311
- 311 wishes to get requests to the appropriate departments as quickly as possible to process requests
- Police have been responsive. If a delay and responding to a problem will occur, it can be communicated to the resident who called it in

Q&A:

- Difference between when to call 311 and when to call 911. Parking issues and non-immediate concerns would be directed to 311. Emergency calls are given priority.
- Mayor's office is using 311 data to track issues
- If there is a disruption due to noise, call 911. All request should be assigned a tracking number
- Property violations are attended to within three days. The next step for the complaint is to go to the magistrate. The penalty is determined by the magistrate's office.
- Requests regarding signs take 8-10 weeks to replace
- Streets and sidewalk requests take weeks; pavement lines are done separately, lag time is an issue with these requests
- Block watch works with police to enforce driving infractions
- Leslie Park bike ride, inappropriate exposure should be reported
- Discussion on bicycle safety, bicycles as nuisances and cyclists as not obeying traffic rules

- Definition of affordable housing If less than 30% of income goes to housing it is considered affordable
- If someone earns 80% of what the median income is, that person should be able to access (affordable) home ownership
- Discussion around affordable housing projects in Lawrenceville and issues around parking with newly built affordable housing

Announcements:

City Council hearing input on affordable housing opportunity fund – 9/21 @ 5:30 PM

Lawrenceville Community Association October 2 house tour

Tickets must be bought in advance (\$15), tour map available

Lawrenceville Food Pantry Location Change

LOCG Volunteer Days – Wednesdays 6-7 PM

Tree Park Workday – 2nd Mondays @ 5:30 PM

Duncan Workday – 4th Mondays @ 6 PM

City Council hearing input on affordable housing opportunity fund – 9/21 @ 5:30 PM

Sunnyside Tour – 10/6 @ 9 AM

Next Block Watch – 9th Ward October 19 @ 6:30 PM

Halloween Party – 10/29 @ Arsenal Park, 1-4 PM

Morgan's BBQ

Ground rules summary

Introduction by Dave Breingan

Video presentation

- Parking
- Music
- Slow cook brisket and ribs
- Other restaurant name is Elbow Room

Summary

Cuisine Texas-style BBQ

Zoning Requirements No variances needed, as there will be no change to be building footprint.

The existing building will be renovated.

Liquor License Business owners will be applying next week.

Hours 11am – 2am

Family-Friendly Yes

Lot Size 24000sq ft

Seats 74, including 12 at bar

Employees 25-30

Timeline summer 2017 opening

Take out Yes

Call business owner directly with issues or concerns Chris: 646-372-8377

Q&A:

- Use of parking lot will be for parking and entertainment
 - Non-residents of Lawrenceville may not be accommodated by provided parking.
- Noise could be problem, how will it be mitigated?
 - Business owners have permits necessary
- A precipitator will break up the smell of cooking meat
- We don't need a new restaurant in the neighborhood
- Residential streets are congested with business parking
- Neighborhood would benefit from a garage
- If residents leave in the evening hours, they can't park when they return
- Public transit is limited in Pittsburgh
- Suggestion to offer a shuttle serve to Strip district, etc for patrons
- Encourage business owners to offer discounts for residents
- Business would fill a niche, Texas BBQ is underserved in the neighborhood
- Elbow room already exists in Pittsburgh – the Brooklyn Elbow Room could be accommodated under the Morgan's BBQ umbrella here
- Valet parking discussion, take away from existing businesses
- Discussion about an incident with one of the business owners at the Abbey in Lawrenceville. Business owner was asked to leave.
- Neighborhood can be assured that incidents will be addressed before they get out of control at Morgan's BBQ and behavior will be what residents would expect of a business owner
- Could a neighborly reminder about noise and behavior be printed on receipts? Yes
- Property will be leased
- Remember that seniors are lifelong residents and accessibility if important to them
- Price points from Brooklyn restaurant will be adjusted for Pittsburgh price points
- Hiring – difficult to find qualifies applicants, LU program with Goodwill -Lawrenceville Works- could partner
- Bike racks will be provided
- Meeting minutes to be posted on LU website www.lunited.org