Northeastern Neighborhood Network (NNN)
Monday, March 2, 2015
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Summary
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
President Hahs began the meeting at 6:35 p.m. by welcoming NNN members and
asking them to introduce themselves.
The following members were in attendance: Thomas Applegate (North River
Commission), Shylo Bisnett (Albany Park Neighbors), Vicki Byard (faculty member
and neighborhood resident), Carmen Rodriguez and Laura Donaghy (Hollywood-North Park Community Association), Janita Tucker (Peterson Pulaski Industry
Business Council), Jack Smith (North Park Village Nature Center), Lucia Carnet
(Northside Learning Center), and Amy Nelson and Michael Golub (Peterson
Elementary School).
Representing the University were President Sharon Hahs, Mike Dizon (Chief
Communications Officer), University Police Lt. Paul Kruszynski, Matt Specht (AVP of
Student Affairs), Kris Pierre (Senior Director of Community and Civic Engagement)
and Mike Hines (Director of Public Relations).
Those member organizations that were absent included: 17th District Police, 39th
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Park Neighborhood Council13 328N f4(i ..03 Tm
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UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Chief Communications Officer Mike Dizon reintroduced Carmen Rodriguez, the new
president of the Hollywood North Park Community Association, and Laura Donaghy,
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Moving forward, HNPCA will be represented by two members Ȃ one of whom would
also be a nearby neighbor.

Dizon then presented a new website created to serve the information needs of the
community and neighbors at www.neiu.edu/neighbors. He mentioned that a new
enewsletter would be launched and distributed on the day following the meeting to
provide NEIU-neighborhood news to those who subscribe. A printed version would
also be distributed to nearby residents as well.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

The group discussed the need for a public forum to discuss a variety of community
issues, including student housing and eminent domain. President Hahs expressed a
willingness to address questions and provide project updates, and she solicited
ideas from the group regarding date, format and logistics. Some of the feedback
shared by the group included: provide an updated map and project timeline, provide
a brief history of what has been done so far, provide forum ground rules to ensure a
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NNN, include a variety of experts on the panel, host the forum in a large space
preferably on a weeknight, and provide an environment where attendees feel safe to
share a variety of viewpoints and not feel intimidated. President Hahs said that any
hosted forum would take place during or after April due to her travel schedule.

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION: TRAFFIC AND PARKING STUDY

Members also offered ideas Ȃ both submitted in advance of the meeting and during
the meeting Ȃ to help with the creation of a traffic and parking study that would
assess, among other things, the impact of student housing. During the meeting, the
group shared the following feedback: look broadly at the impact that the Main
Campus has on traffic and parking in both the North Park and Albany Park
communities, investigate new traffic patterns and environmental issues, look into
how Foster Avenue construction would affect traffic. President Hahs asked
members to provide any additional feedback by mid-May.

NEIGHBORHOOD INFO / OPEN DISCUSSION

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University proceeded with a third phase, it would be smaller than the first
two and would be built on the current 67 acres of campus.  One member inquired about the number of additional students expected to
enroll as a result of new housing opportunities at NEIU. President Hahs said
that she is optimistic that the current student body of approximately 10,000