**Events Committee Meeting Notes**

Date: June 30, 2016

Time: 10am

Place: 210 North Grove Street, East Orange, NJ

Attendees: Jeffrey Scheckner and Royston Allman

Notes:

The meeting began at 10:30am and ended at 12pm.

I. Introductions

a. Names: Jeff Scheckner-Sierra House Development Director and Royston Allman-Ampere Civic Improvement Association

XI. Elections

c. Chair-Royston Allman

d. Vice Chair

e. Secretary-Jeff Scheckner

XII. Discuss ways to bring the community together-

Community could be brought together through a series of community events, some of which are already scheduled. The Greenwood NIP and Sierra House could be a co-sponsor. The community could rally around a possible reopening of the train station. We acknowledged that in many circumstances the presence of a train station provides a major impetus for economic and residential development and adds to property values as exemplified in countless communities across New Jersey. Mr. Allman indicated that the Ampere Train station was closed down over 20 years ago due in part to low ridership but also drug dealing and the perception the area was crime ridden and unsafe. Several years later the building burned and was since razed. Mr. Allman cited a recent study indicating an ample number of commuters from East Orange, Newark and Belleville would support a station if it reopened and attract new riders; not just those who would shift from an alternate station. The East Orange police and community in general have placed major effort to rid the area of high crime and have had some success. But one major issue remains; the cost of rebuilding the station or at minimum, just a platform.

XIII. Objective to host 1 large event and 12 community forums

a. Large event on 4th Ave.

On Saturday August 20th from noon to 6pm, the Ampere Civic Improvement Association is holding a NICE (Neighbors in Community Empowerment) Arts & Music event in the lot adjacent to Heller & Heller Liquors. There will be amusement for kids, face painting, a live band and refreshments. The Greenwood NIP would be welcomed to partner for this event.

The Mayor’s picnic is scheduled to take place Saturday August 27 at Soverel Park; details forthcoming. On Saturday, September 3 East Orange City Council members Alisha Holman and Mustafa Brent are organizing a family day for 5th ward residents at Columbia Park. A community garden is being planned for the corner of 4th and Ampere. As the soil condition is unknown, it will be a container garden. Again, the Greenwood NIP could so-sponsor or participate in any of these events.

b. Community forums – churches, mosque, senior buildings, etc.

These places could serve as a means of helping publicize the events and action being planned

XIV. Goal of the events

Raise awareness, recruit participants and volunteers

XV. How to market events to children and teens, parents, seniors, tenants, residents, business owners.

I, Bill Hunter or Royston could speak at such events. Sierra House’s Greenwood (NIP) has the opportunity to partner with the organizing entity or simply participate in and of these events and could recruit participants who wish to serve on the NIP committee or be encouraged to support our efforts.

XVI. How to keep residents, stakeholders and government informed

As long as someone has participated in any NIP meetings or shown interest, they would receive notifications about planned activities and next steps.

XVII. Marketing tools needed

Public speaking, interact with potential supporters

XVIII. Develop a schedule to accomplish the following

f. Accomplish goals

Between now and the end of the year we have several activities planned and that will help in accomplishing goals and goals

g. Host events

not discussed

h. Disseminate information

e-mails, press releases, meetings, community public forums

XIX. Present Committee discussion to entire Steering Committee

Done

XX. Notes