Forum Notes 6-13-17

* 6:30-7:00pm: Introductions & Review of Eastside Grassroots Coalition’s matters
  + Review of Children’s March
  + Review of Neighborhood Name (East End Big 3, East End B3, EEB3)
  + Meeting Structure Reminder
    - Meetings will be every second Thursday of each month at 6:30pm
    - Flyers were passed out with the dates for the next two meetings
    - The next meetings: July 13, August 10
  + National Night Out—The Eastside Grassroots Coalition will have a table for the event on August 1
  + McClelland Park—Rubye and Carla Ilhi discussed new additions to the park including the new pavilion and benches.
  + Promotion of End of Year Review Booklet
    - Link to the booklet is on the Facebook page
* 7:00-8:00pm: Jackie James-Creedon Talk and Q & A
  + Sam Miller introduced Jackie James-Creedon and also passed around sign up sheet for the environmental effort.
  + Jackie spent about 25 minutes on her power point presentation on her efforts and took about 20 minutes of questions from residents
  + Key points from her talk:
    - Need to find someone in the government to be in favor of their effort
      * She was able to work with Al Carlucci from NY State DEC who worked to get EPA grant to measure air pollutants
        + This grant allowed them to find out that benzene was being emitted from the Coke Plant
    - It is crucial to find out who is the prosecuting attorney in the case against Erie Coke.
      * Should look up from the local Department of Justice
      * Aaron Mango was the prosecuting attorney in the case against the Coke Plant in Tonawanda
      * This resulted in the environmental manager going to jail for obstruction of justice
  + Gary asked if they found a connection between the pollutants and childhood development.
    - She responded by saying that there is currently being a study done but it is a long-term study and won’t be released for a few years
  + Another question: How did you handle the job loss question to your protest?
    - Find people in the government who campion their cause
    - State agencies can be the route to achieve goals
  + Should also contact Senator Bob Casey about the issue since he has made previous statements on the issue
  + Jackie also recommended hiring attorneys for personal injury lawsuits
    - This was one tactic that they used to extract money from the Tonawanda Coke Plant