

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY MEETING
February 22, 2011

The meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman Brian Denniston at 7:10 p.m..

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Chairman

Attendance was taken. There were 34 people present

The minutes of last meeting were read and motion to accept was made by Adele Esposito and Frances Cott and seconded by Jose Ramirez.

Our guest speakers were members of the Guardian Angels. They say that they haven't given up on Newburgh. Whether Newburgh cares is another question. They said we need to work together to get our streets back.

Larry Fauntleroy of the Guardian Angels said our motto with Newburgh is we don't give up. We're going to keep going until we get it right. He said they had to slow down with their operation in Newburgh and make sure new members were properly vetted and trained. They are planning a renewed effort and he promised a weekend in Newburgh in the future but they need the community's help. Ultimately whether Newburgh changes will depend on whether the people here want to get involved. He said we need to talk to neighbors, church members, the Hispanic community, churches.

According to Benjamin Cruz there are maybe five members of the Newburgh Group remaining. He said the Poughkeepsie chapter has an anti-bullying in schools program. They also have EMT training. Newburgh can sponsor EMT Training.

Our second speaker was Jeff Jendreski, a business owner who returned to work after he was beaten up outside his shop. He said he lived on the Heights for 24 years. He commented that the police were doing a good job and that he would not want to be in their shoes. He also said that we need a judge that makes parents pay for graffiti.

We broke for coffee at 8:15 p.m. We had a brief business meeting after the break. We discussed trying to get Mr. Pizzo, Superintendent of Schools, to attend our March meeting. We would like the meeting to be about education. We also would like to talk about the charter change.

There was a motion made to adjourn. Motion was accepted

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Keller