

Minutes of the Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhood Associations Meeting

**Monday, November 14, 2005
City Hall, Room 333, 7:30 PM**

**Next Meeting: Monday, December 12, 2005
City Hall, Room 333, 7:30 PM**

Attendees:

Anna Mae Schaab (Silvermine Crossing),
Joseph Sette (West Norwalk)
Paul Littell (Harbor Shores)
Diane Lauricella (ENNA)
Norman Allen (Harbor Shores)
Hal Alvord (Norwalk DPW)
Maribeth Becker (ENNA)
Bitsy Farnsworth (Harbor View)
David Shockley (Norwalk Redevelopment)
Al Raymond (Spring Hill/Hospital)
Dianne Witkowsky (Spring Hill/Hospital)
Bob Wagman (West Norwalk)
Chris Perone (State Rep)
Danny Grundman (NASH)
Darlene Young (Weed and Seed)

Laurel Lindstrom (ENNA),
Corey Willix (Spring Hill),
Pamela Garrett (Harbor Shores),
Barbara Felter (Broad River),
Christine Abraham (West Main),
Don Nelson (Clean & Green, TAC),
Jerry Crowley (Harbor View)
Dick Vicenzi (Shorefront)
Corrine Weston (SoNo Alliance)
Jim Clark (Golden Hill)
Diana Paladino (Spring Hill/Hospital)
Dick Moccia (Mayor-elect)
Kelly Straniti (Broad River)
Marija Bryant (NPT)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35p.m.

Minutes of the October 11th, 2005 meeting were approved (after adding Jerry Crowley to the attendees list).

Guest Speaker - Mayor-Elect Dick Moccia

Mr. Moccia spoke and answered many questions from the attendees. Some of the topics discussed were as follows:

- Stuart Avenue: Concern is over development. Would like a 6-month moratorium on demolitions. Currently talking to legal counsel and officials in Danbury (who recently had 1 year moratorium) to see how it might be done. Problem is that zoning regs tie our hands which limits ability to do anything to prevent.
- Colonial Village: oppose strongly but the Housing Authority is part of HUD, not Norwalk government, so 'hands are tied'. Potentially encourage some traffic calming to make amends with the neighbors.
- Master Plan: Planning Commission will have public hearings in the near future.
- Eminent domain: use sparingly. Try to relocate displaced people/businesses into plan areas. Ensure property owners get fair market value.
- Homeless shelter: it's part of our community but it needs to be a better neighbor; loitering and crime have been issues. Potentially use back lot for entrance.
- Grants coordinator: we will have one – hopefully in a few months.
- Trade Council dedicated to get kids working. Needs to be ongoing. See Weed and Seed below.

- Board of Ed: needs to get out into the community with an open agenda so that more families can participate.
- Gangs: there are 9 operating in Norwalk with kids as young as 10 and 11 years old. Issue must be addressed. Focus on Trade Council and Weed and Seed.
- Architectural Review Board: Problem for Ordinance Committee. We should send our request for this to chair of ordinance committee with copy to the mayor.

Guest Speaker – Darlene Young of Weed and Seed:

Active and successful summer employment program for youth. Considering coordinating with Trade council to improve results. It appears to have a positive impact on minimizing gang influence.

Weed and Seed is currently in its last year of grant funding and needs help to survive. Perhaps the CNNA can draft a letter or resolution requesting that this program continue. Ms. Young to provide input to CNNA. The program also needs help from local corporations – either with funds or job opportunities.

West Avenue:

The revised plan has been posted on the City's website – but several people had difficulty accessing the link. Upon initial glance, it appears that many of our recommendations were incorporated into the plan. We can review it further and discuss at the next meeting.

New Business:

Diane Lauricella: encouraged us to all become active in budget process. Suggested that each neighborhood association consider what it needs and submit a line item.

Hal Alvord: mentioned that the budget easier to change earlier in the process than later.

Jim Clark: emphasized need for neighborhood input so the budget has a better chance of being good for the city. Through involvement of associations, the city officials will see “what’s really important” to the citizens.

Potentially get Budget Director to speak to CNNA.

“Get to Know Your Neighbors”: This will be a regular feature of our monthly CNNA meetings so that we can learn more about the various parts of our diverse city and share ideas with each other. Spring Hill/Hospital Association will be presenting an overview of their neighborhood and association at the December meeting.

Adjournment was 9:33 PM.

Respectively submitted,
MB