

**CITY OF NORWALK  
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2007**

**ATTENDANCE:** David Shockley, Chairman; Christine Abraham, West Main Street Neighborhood Association; Lisa Bardon, Department of Public Works; Maribeth Becker, CNNA; Jim Clark, Golden Hill Association; Fred Eshraghi, DPW Traffic Engineer; Leigh Grant, NASH; Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill Association; Glenn Iannaccone, Norwalk Fire Department; Moravia Langley, Meadow Street; Laurel Lindstrom, ENNA; Mayor Richard Moccia, City of Norwalk; Don Nelson, Norwalk Tree Alliance; Diana Paladino, Spring Hill/Hospital Neighborhood Association; Mark Pierce, Wilton Avenue Neighborhood Association; Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital Neighborhood Association; Lt. Paul Resnick, Norwalk Police Department; Erin Leonard, Zoning Department; Vladimir Mariano, Zoning Department; Dorothy Romanelli, Harbor Shores Neighborhood Association; John Romanelli, Harbor Shores Neighborhood Association; Laura Panciera, DPW

**STAFF:** Connie Blair, Department of Public Works Customer Service

**OTHERS:** April Wennerstrom, Keep America Beautiful; Bronwen Evans, Keep America Beautiful.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**WELCOMING REMARKS: REVIEW AND APPROVE THE JANUARY 3, 2007  
MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Shockley welcomed everyone to the meeting and distributed copies of the agenda and the minutes to those who needed them. Mr. Shockley announced that plans were being made for the Kick Off for the Spring Weather Clean Up.

**\*\* MR. IANNACCONO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2007 MEETING.**

**\*\* MR. CLARK SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER UPDATE**

Ms. Blair reported that the Neighborhood reports had been sent out by email, but a number of people were not able to open the document on their computers. Hard copies were available for those who needed them. Ms. Blair stated that the Open Requests would only cover the preceding month, while the Closed Requests will cover a six-month period.

Ms. Blair met with Mr. Alvord to set boundaries for the neighborhood areas. West Norwalk still needs some work on the boundaries. Also more Tree Liaisons are needed.

### **MEADOW STREET PARK SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Lindstrom reported that a subcommittee has been formed to work on the problems at the Meadow Street Park and she then listed the names of the Committee members. Among the various improvements that the park needs to protect the children that play there are: adding fences, closing the park at sunset, and scheduling structured, supervised activities at the park. Ms. Lindstrom stated that Mr. Moccia has requested funding for the park in the 2008 FY. There will also be a meeting with the Housing Authority about the park in the near future. Ms. Langley commented that the Housing Authority might be willing to apply for a grant to improve the Park in the future. She also stressed that the safety of the children was important. Mayor Moccia commented that the City is also looking into possible grants, but cautioned everyone that no one is sure what will happen with previously earmarked federal funds yet.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **City Staff**

*Mr. Shockley distributed copies of a letter from Fire Inspector Iannaccone regarding the posting of street numbers on houses to the members of the Committee. Mr. Shockley and Fire Inspector Iannaccone encouraged the Committee members to make copies of the regulations and distribute them to the members of the various neighborhood associations. There was a brief discussion about some of the areas of Norwalk where the sequencing of houses is irregular.*

Ms. Bardon announced that DPW was looking to schedule another Bulky Waste Pick Up Day and possibly another Yard Waste Pick Up Day since there has been very little snow this year.

#### **Neighborhood Associations**

*Mr. Shockley then distributed copies of the Keep Norwalk Beautiful – Spring 2007 Volunteer Registration Notice to the Committee members.*

Ms. Lindstrom then passed around a copy of the “Norwalk At Your Fingertips 2006” guide and asked those present to verify their names and contact numbers. An updated edition will be available soon.

Ms. Becker stated that on February 12, CNNA will be having their next meeting at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall Room 300A. Poco Partners will be addressing the group on their redevelopment projects. She also stated that there will be a reception for the various Neighborhood Groups at the Norwalk Museum on February 15th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mayor Moccia announced that the State has recently signed a Reverse 911 contract. He hopes to bring the company in to Norwalk to speak with the Fire and Police Departments. Mayor Moccia then informed the Committee members that Homeland Security will cover the first year of the service and stated that he felt this would be a tremendous asset to Norwalk. Mr. Raymond had a question about the Emergency

Preparedness Drill that had been scheduled during the final quarter of 2006. Mayor Moccia said that due to the high winds forecasted for that day, the event was cancelled in order to keep the emergency equipment available for the various communities. He also said that the high winds would have increased the chances of injuries. The drill has now been scheduled for April 28th.

Mr. Shockley then congratulated Mr. Raymond on his appointment as President of the Spring Hill/Hospital Neighborhood Association.

Mr. Clark has some concerns about a recent incident when he dialed 911 and was routed the Troop G State Police in Bridgeport. The call was then transferred to the Norwalk Police Department Routine Call number. Mr. Clark ended up disconnecting and redialing 911. This time the call was properly routed to the Combined Dispatch Office. Lt. Resnick explained that because Mr. Clark was using a cell phone, the call was routed to Troop G and then sent to the appropriate town, which is the way the system used to work. The second call he made was rerouted properly.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Mr. Shockley introduced Ms. Wennerstrom and Ms. Evans from Keep America Beautiful.

Ms. Wennerstrom gave a brief history of Keep America Beautiful (KAB), which was formed during the 1950's. One of the goals of KAB is to engage the individual to take responsibility for the environment. KAB encourages people to think about ways to recycle and reuse things. Their programs address threshold issues, such as litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling and beautification.

Part of the individual response includes education, partnership, involving the citizens, businesses and government in the various programs and volunteerism. The Great American Clean Up program runs from March until May. Analysis has shown that for every single dollar that the local government invests in the community, twelve dollars comes back.

Ms. Wennerstrom explained that litter is the place to begin. She then listed the seven principle sources of litter: commercial refuse, household trash handling, construction/demolition sites, uncovered vehicles, loading docks, motorists and pedestrians. The reason that people litter is that they feel no sense of ownership. When the facts are presented and the community is involved in a systematic plan, the results become obvious. This provides positive reinforcement.

When a community becomes involved with KAB, there is a sense of self-determination that happens. This, along with the proven tools, the strengthening of the network via training and national credibility helps the community move forward.

When asked about whether KAB had programs for schools, Ms. Wennerstrom replied that KAB has a large amount of educational materials for schools. One unit study is called "Waste In Place" and a second one is called "Clean Sweep America". These unit studies can be incorporated into school curriculum.

In conclusion, Ms. Wennerstrom encouraged the Committee members to think about education, ordinances and enforcement.

Ms. Evans then gave a short presentation on the Cigarette Litter Program. She explained how the measurement tools are used, and passed around a pocket cigarette ashtray that KAB has developed for smokers. The pocket ashtray snaps open and will hold the butt and the ashes safely until they can be properly disposed of. One problem is that when there are public cigarette and ash disposal units at transition points, people will often toss newspapers into them, which can be a safety and fire hazard. Ms. Evans also pointed out that KAB has been working since 2003 to actively reduce butt litter and Phillip Morris has sponsored their programs. Nationwide, there has been a 48% reduction in butt litter.

Mr. Shockley asked what it would take for Norwalk to be involved with KAB. Ms. Wennerstrom pointed out that Norwalk already was participating in the Great American Clean Up program. She explained that the association fee amount is used to provide training programs. Ms. Grant asked if KAB provides grants. Ms. Wennerstrom replied that KAB does have a number of grants and gave a quick overview. Ms. Becker asked if the neighborhood groups should be working on specific areas. Ms. Wennerstrom replied that she felt the groups were working in the right places because people like to clean up their own neighborhoods first. She suggested that it might be a good idea to consider a joint effort in the future.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services