

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 5, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: Dave Shockley, Redevelopment; Julie Burton, CNNA; Jim Clark, Golden Hill N.A.; Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill N.A.; Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital N.A.; Vladimir Mariano, Planning and Zoning; Lindsay McCurran, Planning and Zoning; Marcia Powell, Village Creek Home Owners Association; Lee Bernadino, Glenn Iannaccone, Fire Department; Hal Alvord, Public Works Department; Mayor Richard A. Moccia, Pamela McDonough, Lindenwoods Road; Mark Pierce; Wilton Avenue N.A.; Laurel Lindstrom, ENNA; Sgt. Andre Velez, Norwalk Police Department; Marilyn Maitland, Norwalk Health Department

STAFF: Connie Blair, Customer Service

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

WELCOMING REMARKS, REVIEW AND APPROVE FEBRUARY 6, 2008

**** MS. GRIFFING MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2008.**

**** MS. POWELL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Staff

Ms. Blair said that yesterday there was an article in the paper about Norwalk Connect system and those who do not have Internet access but wish to sign up for the service can call the number listed in the article.

Mayor Moccia said that most of the budget money for this year would be directed towards the flooding issues. A meeting with the Five Mile River residents was also held to review their options regarding the flooding along the river.

The Mayor then commented that no notification had been given to him when the historic district was awarded. The Mayor said that he felt that he should have been notified and that the hearing should be held in the town where the district was located. He said that this

was not an anti-historic move, but common sense to notify the chief executive officer of the municipality and it would make it easier for the residents if the hearing was held locally. He has spoken to Norwalk state representatives about this.

Mr. Shockley said that he had been in touch with the Deer Alliance. Last year, the number of ticks had increased and there was a 60% increase in the number of Lyme occurrences found in the ticks collected in Norwalk. Mr. Shockley said that the Health Department has updated information on this issue.

Keep Norwalk Beautiful Sign Up

Mr. Shockley said that there were copies of the flyers for Keep Norwalk Beautiful 08 clean up activities available for the various neighborhood associations.

Ms. Burton, from CNNA, introduced herself and said that this was her first meeting. The next CNNA meeting will be on the fourth Monday of the Month and Waypointe will be giving a presentation.

Fire Marshall Iannaccone said that there had been another issue regarding the numbering of buildings. He asked the neighborhood representatives to ask their members to make sure the houses in their associations are numbered.

Mr. Alvord said that the flood work was about to start in the Buckingham and Olmstead Place area. .

Mr. Alvord said that many of the neighborhood associations have Tree Liaisons and encouraged every group to have someone as a Tree Liaison.

NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Raymond asked if his area was on the spring tree-planting plan. Mr. Alvord said that Spring Hill is listed on the plan. Mr. Raymond said that Spring Hill had been concerned about not having a park. The First District stepped forward and offered three quarters of an acre where the water towers are. Mr. Raymond said that the plans were to make it a learning park, with information on the water towers, and signs giving information about the hundred year old oaks on the parcel.

Mr. Raymond said that Spring Hill was planning on a spring clean up their Adopt-A-Spot by the parking lot.

Ms. Bernadino asked about the status of Fodor Farm. The Mayor replied that the City had received a \$100,000 grant for the work on the community garden.

Mr. Clark from the Golden Hill Neighborhood Association reported that someone had hit the sign at the I-95 Exit 14 Adopt a Spot and sheared off at the base. Mr. Clark said that

he had not been able to get there to assess the damage yet. Mayor Moccia asked him to check into it and report back to Mr. Alvord about the status of the sign.

Mr. Clark said that there was a woman who was compiling a list of public art. He asked anyone who knew of public art to email Jim DelGreco (jimdelgreco@optonline.net) or to call him at 852-0357.

Mayor Moccia said that there were two women present whose dog had been shot with a .22. The police are investigating this. Ms. Duleep said that the dog had been shot twice, so she did not believe that it was a random shooting. Ms. Duleep said that she had concerns about the children in the area. The Mayor reiterated that the police were treating this as a very serious matter and there was an ongoing investigation.

Mr. Clark suggested that everyone have the police phone number in their cell phone so that it is possible to call them quickly if something suspicious is happening.

There was a discussion about absentee landlords. The Mayor said that there were over 200 cases in court from the Zoning Department regarding violations with cease and desist orders. He pointed out that it takes time to get these issues resolved legally. Tax appeal cases that were filed three years ago are now just getting on the docket now.

Mr. Clark pointed out that he would like to go to the State to see if there could be more judges appointed to the court system. The mayor said that it would be good to have a separate Zoning Court created that could handle these matters.

Ms. Lindstrom said that graffiti and the vandalism had been increasing in East Norwalk. She said that the increased patrols help cut down on these incidents. The Mayor said that it was important to catch one of the vandals and to prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law, because it sends a message. He added that the Police Department had asked for three new officers in the upcoming budget.

Ms. McDonough said that Lindenwoods Road was the location near where a murder occurred a month and a half ago. She said that she applauds the police for their quick action on that case.

Ms. McDonald said that on her street three homes had been demolished and that 12 houses were slated to go on the parcels. She asked what could be done about this. Mayor Moccia suggested that she check with the Zoning Department regarding the zoning district.

Ms. McDonough said that there had been an island in the road at the end of Lindenwood Place, but now a contractor has torn it up. Mr. Alvord said that he would follow up on this to make sure that it was returned to its original state after the work was completed.

Ms. McDonough said that there were some historic oak trees on her street and asked how they could be preserved. Mr. Alvord said that if they were on public property, the City could protect the trees. Ms. Blair said that she would have a deputy tree warden check

this out. Mr. Raymond suggested that her neighborhood group get together and talk to the contractors. Mr. Alvord said that a lot of the issues could be addressed through a neighborhood association. Ms. Burton offered her assistance in starting a group.

Mr. Pierce said that a car had damaged a fence near Rolling Ridge. Mr. Pierce said that the cars are still parking at the corner of the Grey Rock Road. He asked that for a “No Parking from Here to Corner” for 25 feet before the intersection be installed. Ms. Blair will follow up.

Mr. Pierce asked Ms. Maitland about the status of some of the citations that had been issued. Ms. Maitland said that she was following up on this.

Mr. Pierce asked whether Wilton Avenue would be paved. Mr. Alvord said that the catch basins on Wilton Avenue are connected to the sewer system. The City will be redoing the drainage issue and then paving. Work will probably start in April. Mr. Pierce asked if there could be a stop sign at the end of Horton where it connects to Wilton Avenue. Mr. Alvord said that it would be good to discuss this offline. Mr. Pierce agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services