

City of Norwalk
Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Meeting
March 7, 2007

ATTENDANCE: David Shockley, Chairman; Mayor Moccia; Hal Alvord, DPW Director; Maribeth Becker, CNNA; Leigh Grant, NASH; Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill Association; Glenn Iannaccone, Fire Department; Laurel Lindstrom, ENNA; Michael Mocciae, Recreation and Parks Director; Don Nelson, Norwalk Tree Alliance; Diana Paladino, Spring Hill/Hospital N.A.; Mark Pierce, Wilton Avenue N.A.; Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital N.A.; Lt. Paul Resnick, Norwalk Police Department; Erin Mannix, Zoning Department; Adam Carsen, Planning and Zoning, Tom Closter, Health Department Chief Environmental Officer

STAFF: Connie Blair, Customer Service

CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOMING REMARKS; REVIEW AND APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 7, 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. IANNACONE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2007 MEETING.

** MS. LINDSTROM SECONDED.

** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER UPDATE

Mr. Alvord informed the group that the last Bulky Waste Pick Up Day had been an overwhelming success. In view of that, another Bulky Waste Pick Up Day has been scheduled for March 24th for the Fourth Taxing District, which encompasses all the areas of the City that have sewer service. Mr. Alvord stated that he has plans for a Bulky Waste Transfer Station in the future that would allow residents to bring items in for disposal. Mr. Alvord encouraged everyone to check the City Website for updates if there appears to be weather problems on March 24th. A number to call in case of cancellation will be posted there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Staff

Mr. Shockley stated that those who are interested in participating in Christmas in April should contact him. He also stated that surveys about the neighborhood meetings would be available at the end of the meeting regarding the effectiveness and future

direction of the Neighborhood Preservation Meetings would be available at the end of the meeting.

He also informed the group that "Keep Norwalk Beautiful" volunteer registration can now be done through the City website.

Mr. Iannaccone stressed that it was vitally important that people make sure their smoke alarms are working. He reported that there have been a few fires where the smoke detectors have failed and there has been one fatality as a result of that.

There was also a discussion about businesses not having clearly posted street numbers. Mr. Iannaccone said that this was a challenge. It was suggested that this be encouraged by some type of announcement in the newspaper.

Ms. Grant commented that she had attended a recent workshop and during the course of the presentation, the local authorities had presented a magnetic holder with cards to list all the medical information of the residents called the "File for Life". The file is designed to be attached to the outside of the refrigerator so that EMS can find it in the case of emergency.

Mayor Moccia announced that the Reverse 911 State contract has been signed. This will allow the firm to be recommended to the Common Council for approval. The Homeland Security Funds will pay for initial set up and first year. Public service announcements and emergency announcements can be sent out over the network to all the residents in a targeted area or Citywide if need be.

Neighborhood Associations

Ms. Becker announced that CNNA would be having a meeting on March 12, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 300A about the upcoming budget.

The Golden Hill Association will be sponsoring a clean up of the litter at the 70 Dr. Martin Luther Hill Jr. Drive parking lot on March 31, 2007. Refreshment will be provided. Interested parties need to contact Mr. Shockley at 854-7810, ext. #6782 for additional details.

Ms. Grant informed the group that there are National Historic Nominations for a number of buildings in Silvermine. Unfortunately the Silvermine Tavern and the three buildings associated with it are currently for sale. This sale could have a strong impact on the Silvermine area.

Mr. Nelson announced that the Norwalk Tree Alliance in cooperation with other groups in the City would be sponsoring the Norwalk Tree Festival on Saturday, May 5th at Mathews Park from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Nelson also said that in order to maintain Norwalk's Tree City status, there will be an Arbor Day Celebration and Ceremony at Columbus School Arboretum on April 27th, which is the last Friday in April.

Mr. Alvord announced that Norwalk has been recognized as a 2006 Tree City.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mr. Closter, Health Department Chief Environmental Officer distributed copies of Norwalk Health Department Environmental Health Fact Sheet to the group.

Mr. Closter explained that the Housing Code addresses trash and garbage regulations for the Health Department. He then reviewed Section 59-4D, which requires residences that have three or more units to supply containers for garbage and trash removal.

Housing Code Section 59-8 covers items such as public or shared areas in multiple unit dwellings and also defines what is considered to be garbage and what is considered to be rubbish. Garbage is defined as any and all organic waste that might provide food for rodents and insects, while rubbish consists of non-organic items. This section of the code also includes a prohibition against accumulations of rubbish, boxes, lumber, scrap metal or any other material in such a manner that may provide harborage or food for rodents in or about any dwelling unit or structure.

When violations do occur, Mr. Closter then refers to Section 71-13, which requires that the material be immediately removed. Once each incident is brought to a satisfactory conclusion, the file is closed. Repeat offenders may be reported to the Housing Authority. Section 59-11 provides that a fine may be levied against the offenders for up to \$99 per day for failure to comply with the regulations.

Mr. Closter then reviewed State of Connecticut Public Health Codes regarding the same situations.

Ms. Paladino then asked if there was a flyer available that covered these various regulations. This idea was seriously considered.

Mr. Alvord then addressed the issue about bulky waste that was left on the sidewalk. He reviewed the Bulky Waste Pick Up Day announcement and explained that the Fourth Taxing District was all the areas in the City that were serviced by City sewers. However, he reminded the group that the City only has four garbage trucks and twelve workers doing the sanitation runs.

Mr. Alvord explained that City residents are now required to put their garbage in containers as of last year. These containers must be in 20-30 gallon watertight, rigid containers with tight fitting lids and must not weigh more than 75 pounds. He explained that the business area, referred to as the Town Route, receives daily pick up. Last year, Chief Rilling, Mayor Moccia and Mr. Alvord walked along Wall Street and Mr. Alvord issued violations regarding trash situations. Mr. Alvord explained that he handed out the citations rather than the Police Department because the fines would then go into the City funds rather than to the State, which would happen if Chief Rilling wrote out the violations. Also the City would have no way of knowing whether or not the fines had been paid. Recent changes now allow the City to fine up to \$250.00.

Mr. Alvord then reviewed the City codes regarding trash and garbage, which are contained in Chapter 94. Mr. Alvord stressed that the City requires that the residents put out their garbage containers no earlier than 6 p.m. the night before and no later than 6 a.m. the morning of their assigned pick up day. The cans should be removed from the sidewalk/curb area as soon as possible.

Mr. Alvord said that a flyer will be developed that details the proper manner for garbage disposal. He also pointed out that the City has no equipment for handling dumpsters, so

all the private businesses, which have dumpsters must contact with private haulers to have the garbage removed.

Regarding recycling materials, Mr. Alvord said that there was a weight limit of 75 pounds. He also said that if the sanitation workers see recyclable materials mixed in with the garbage, they could refuse to remove the trash.

He then reiterated the details for the Bulky Waste Pick Up Day and said that phones, faxes, and computers would not be accepted. Mr. Alvord also repeated that he would like to have a Special Waste Facility, which would be able to accept old computers, and other items that the City is not able to dispose of at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments, Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services