

**CITY OF NORWALK  
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING  
JULY 5, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Richard A. Moccia, Mayor; David Shockley, Chairman;  
Don Nelson, Tree Advisory Committee & Norwalk Tree Alliance;  
Marilyn Maitland, Norwalk Health Dept; Fred Eshraghi, Dept Public  
Works; Glenn Iannaccone, Norwalk Fire Dept; Hal Alvord, Public Works  
Department; Laurel Anderson, City Scan; Aline Rochefort, Zoning Dept.

Leigh Grant, Silvermine Association and NASH;  
Terri Tylo, Tracey Area Association;  
Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill Association;  
Dorothy & John Romanelli, Harbor Shores Association;  
Mark Pierce, Wilton Ave Association;  
Nancy Whitmore & Helen Bryan, West Main Street Association;  
Laurel Lindstrom, Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association;  
Maribeth Becker, Coalition Norwalk Neighborhood Association;  
Lee Beridino;  
Donnie Sellers, Lexington Avenue Association;  
Kristin Jordan, Spring Hill Association;  
Barbara Felter, Broad River Association;  
Diane Lauricella, Village Creek Association and LWV

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He started the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE JUNE 7, 2006 MEETING MINUTES**

**\*\* MS. ROMANELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2006.**

The correction to the minutes is as follows:

On page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, it should read "Ms. Griffing mentioned that there have been numerous complaints about the junk and mess on properties near the Ben Franklin School."

**\*\* MS. GRIFFING SECONDED.**

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

Chairman Shockley said that a memo was sent out urging everyone to contact Customer Service with any issues regarding their neighborhood. He provided cards to everyone with the phone numbers and related information on them. In addition, he said there is a complaint

form available for people to use regarding Zoning complaints, and the form can be dropped off in Room 221.

**GOLDEN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; JIM CLARK**

Mr. Clark was unable to attend. Ms. Katherine Griffing representing Golden Hill was at the meeting but said that there weren't any issues to discuss.

**EASTERN NORWALK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; LAUREL LINDSTROM**

Ms. Lindstrom mentioned some recurring problems in the neighborhood. The first is at 181 East Avenue, where it appears that there are cars being sold on a weekly and/or monthly basis. This could be a zoning issue and a police enforcement issue.

The second problem is the intersection of St. John and East Avenue, where there is heavy traffic at exit 16. Drivers are pulling u-turns to avoid the traffic congestion. This could be an enforcement issue.

The third problem is the code violations. She felt that there needs to be more discretion as far as code violations go. She said that if a homeowner keeps the grass long it should not be cited as a violation since it won't lead to a mosquito infestation unless standing water is present. This particular violation can't be found in the Health codes. Ms. Maitland said that they can't cite some of the homeowners and not all of them. Mayor Moccia said that if someone files a complaint, it's the Health Department's job to clean up. They can't just arbitrarily decide who to cite or not. Ms. Lindstrom provided copies of information from the Internet on mosquito habitat.

**SPRING HILL/HOSPITAL AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; AL RAYMOND**

Mr. Raymond was unable to attend, but Ms. Kristin Jordan was at the meeting and mentioned that she has lived on Gerard Street for three years. The cut-through from Fallow Street to Spring Hill allows for speeding, and it is dangerous as there are children walking along sidewalks in disrepair. She has petitioned everyone in the area, and the petition is in someone's office at City Hall. She asked why speed humps couldn't be installed, and the reply was that the street is too short. Mr. Eshraghi said he will look into it, and the first step will be to do a traffic study. Ms. Jordan confirmed that there are no signs posted, and the traffic problems occur at all times during the day.

**HARBOR SHORES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; DOROTHY ROMANELLI**

Ms. Romanelli thanked those involved for fixing Woodward Avenue and Meadow Street. She asked about the status of the drain on Yost Street, and was told that it will be done in July.

**MEADOW STREET; MORAVIA LANGLEY**

Ms. Langley said that the Meadow Gardens park has been turned into a trash bin. She asked for a gate like the one at the Bouton Street park that would say "Park Closed at Dusk". There is drinking going on in the park after it should be closed, and it is very unsafe. Mayor Moccia said that the Parks & Recreation Department has continually responded to the clean-up complaints, but the problem keeps occurring. Ms. Langley asked for them to clean it again, as the last time she remembers the park being cleaned up was by the children and residents on June 17. There was discussion about the police patrols and calls being made to the Police Department regarding the goings-on in the park. Mayor Moccia said he will look into it.

#### **BROAD RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; DIANE LOCKWOOD**

Ms. Lockwood was unable to attend, but Ms. Barbara Felter was present and spoke about the possibility of drug use going on in the parking lot behind the Broad River homes. She mentioned that the Clean & Green sign behind Wendy's has been vandalized. She said she didn't have an update on the mailboxes. There is a meeting of the Broad River Association on July 12.

#### **WEST MAIN STREET; CHRISTINE ABRAHAM**

Ms. Abraham was not able to attend. Ms. Bryan and Ms. Whitmore were at the meeting, and reported the same problems for their neighborhood, speeding cars, loud music, and parking on the wrong side of the street. They place calls to the Police Department but the suspects leave before they get there.

#### **WILTON AVENUE; MARK PIERCE**

Mr. Pierce said he had a few things to discuss, but he will bring them to Customer Service. He said he looks forward to when they put up the No Parking signs on Grand Street, as well as the curb painting in front of Ash Creek Saloon. He said that the Wilton Avenue Neighborhood Association is teaming up with the West Main Street Neighborhood Association and having a "Come Out and Meet Your Neighbor" picnic on July 15 from 11:30 – 4:00 at the park on Fair Street. The rain date is Sunday, July 16. He mentioned that the MTA police came to the last neighborhood meeting and discussed the garbage dumping at the train tracks. They said that it was cleaned up two years ago, but it is filled again. The MTA said they have informed everyone via flyers, and they are offering a \$10,000 fine for anyone caught in violation.

#### **TRACEY AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; GLORIA SEYMOUR**

Ms. Seymour was unable to attend, but Ms. Terri Tylo mentioned some things that are going on in the neighborhood. She said the house on North Avenue, possibly #3 or #5, has illegal apartments. Fire Marshal Iannaccone said that they investigated, and ordered the basement apartments vacated. She asked why the structure at 22 Union Avenue, untaxed and uninhabitable, can't be torn down. Ms. Maitland said that a notice has been sent to the homeowner. She said that at one time, a portion of the curb from 1 Camp Avenue to North Avenue was painted to deter parking there, but the sidewalk was repaired and now the curb has

to be repainted. Mr. Alvord said he will look into it. She asked about a stop sign being installed on Adams Avenue at Camp Street. Mr. Eshraghi said he will look into it. The traffic counters have been put out, but there is no analysis yet. She mentioned that there appear to be people sleeping in shifts in certain 1 or 2-family houses in the neighborhood, and there are extra cars noticeable on the property. It also appears that they are switching the license plates on the cars. She said that at 6 North Avenue, it seems that there is a chop shop type of business being operated. Mayor Moccia said that they need proof of that type of activity going on, and he suggested that pictures be taken and sent to the Police Department.

#### **HEATHER LANE; CINDY MOTTOLESE**

Ms. Mottolese was unable to attend. Chairman Shockley said that they will wait to do the traffic control study on Strawberry Hill in order to see the impact on Heather Lane.

#### **NORWALK ASSOCIATION OF SILVERMINE HOMEOWNERS; LEE LEVEY**

Mr. Levey was unable to attend. Ms. Leigh Grant was at the meeting, and asked for a Health Department update at 108 Comstock Hill Road. Ms. Maitland said that the owner is leaving at the end of July. She said that there are problems with vandalism, with kids starting giant fireballs in areas that could lead to structural fires and/or personal injury. The graffiti on James Street and High Street is still visible. She felt that perhaps it was time for the police to go to the Silvermine Area, and/or split patrols with the Broad River Association. She mentioned to Mr. Alvord that she would like to be involved in the meeting regarding the design of the handrails on the Perry Avenue Bridge, before the design becomes final. Mr. Alvord said they are planning a meeting in early August. Mayor Moccia said that the City staff worked closely with the neighborhood association, and that the design plan should be formulated and designed by the professional staff. Mr. Alvord said the bridge will be rebuilt as closely to its current design as possible, and the railings, with 5 potential designs, need to meet the safety requirements for bridge railings.

#### **LEXINGTON AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; DONNIE SELLERS**

Mr. Sellers said that the Lexington Avenue neighborhood association has had meetings recently during which they set up the by-laws. He thanked the Department of Public Works for doing a great clean-up job, and he said he was always helped on a timely basis.

#### **TREE ALLIANCE; DON NELSON**

Mr. Nelson said that the spring planting season is over. He will be working with the neighborhood tree liaisons over the summer to identify bare spots where trees need to be planted. He urged neighborhood association leaders to appoint tree liaisons if they don't have one in place already. Mr. Alvord said that they will provide orientation and training for the tree liaisons.

Ms. Lee Beridino mentioned that she had submitted a complaint to Planning & Zoning regarding the construction of a deck on a neighborhood house, and she asked what the grade level is. Ms. Rochefort said that a variance was issued for the deck to be built at grade level. Ms. Beridino said that there was a situation with the resident at 10 Osborne Avenue not being able to keep his car in the back of the house, but not being able to get a variance to park on the street. She said that she called the police regarding a loud, late-night party over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Mayor Moccia said he will look into the police records.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Moccia spoke about the articles concerning quality of life issues. Anti-blight ordinances are being reviewed, especially regarding commercial buildings. He said that every department is doing the best they can to clean up neighborhoods, control speeding, etc. There will be another "Slow Down" week in September when school reopens.

### **ADJOURN MEETING**

**\*\* CHAIRMAN SHOCKLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr  
Telesco Secretarial Services