

**EASTERN NORWALK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**March 14, 2007**

**Minutes**

**Board Member Attendees:** Laurel Lindstrom (president), David Park, Erik Nees, Diane Cece

**Board Members Absent:** Sarah Hunter, Gordon Tully, Maribeth Becker,

**Advisory Board Member Attendees:** Nick Overall, Marija Bryant

**Others Attendees:** Ted van de Kamp, Sally Grose, Mari Freeman, Adeline Lesk, Dorothy Darg, Mark Berns, Maggie Peterson, Patricia Pond, Lisa Rivieccio

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.
2. Public Participation – none at this time
3. Minutes
  - a. January 10, 2007 Minutes accepted with correction
  - b. February 14, 2007 Minutes accepted
4. President's Report – Laurel Lindstrom
  - a. Circulated United Way upcoming workshops for nonprofits, announced event sponsored by Tree Advisory Committee and Norwalk Tree Alliance for May 5, 11 AM to 3 PM at Mathews Park – Norwalk Tree Festival. Spring Norwalk Plus magazine circulated. Article on neighborhood association in Norwalk in issue that was a result of the editor contacting Laurel after finding contact information on our website. Laurel put the reporter in touch with other neighborhood association leaders throughout Norwalk for a comprehensive look at Norwalk's development from the neighborhood association perspective.
  - b. Treasury report – Presented itemized report for month ending February 28.
5. Regular Business:
  - a. Watch List Properties
    - i. **73 Strawberry Hill Ave. (old Fitch School):** No news
    - ii. **93 East Avenue:** Marija Bryant provided update on court proceedings. No decisions made as yet.
    - iii. **Veterans Park:** Several residents present for discussion of this item. Laurel Lindstrom updated attendees on new information obtained from recent conversations and meetings she has had with officials. General consensus from those present is in opposition to the City's plans for mini-golf, batting cages and amphitheater. After lengthy discussion focused on concern re the commercialism of public space, the residents decided to draft a letter/petition specifying their concerns.
    - iv. **Norden Place:** No new plans submitted to Zoning Dept. but Laurel Lindstrom spoke with an official who had heard that a revised housing plan may soon be submitted.
  - b. Neighborhood Issues/Committees
    - i. **Zoning & Master Plan:** Laurel Lindstrom indicated that the Westport Ave. & Main Ave. consultant (Phillips Preiss Shapiro Associates) has completed the final study document. Chan Krieger & Associates, who is drafting the city-wide master plan presented a first draft to the Planning Commission on March 12. Commissioners reviewed the draft point by point. The consultant will redraft the plan based on the commissioners' comments.

Laurel attended the meeting to observe. Public hearings will follow once final draft is reviewed by the Commission.

- ii. **Speeding & Traffic:** David Park reports having met with Police Commissioner Peter Torrano to discuss traffic enforcement. David discussed how most residents feel that enforcement is lacking. Mr. Torrano discussed statistics of Police calls and being understaffed. He also mentioned finding qualified recruits is difficult. Board members questioned the expense to the City related to police over-time and suggested that David contact Chief Rilling to explore this issue further.  
Laurel Lindstrom reports that, according to Hal Alvord, the Traffic Calming/Safe Routes to School project has not moved any further ahead because the State DOT has oversight powers of the SRTS federal grant funds. The DOT needs to approve RFQ and RFP documents and participate in all decisions. As yet, there has been no DOT rep available to initiate the process. For consistency, Hal plans to process the Traffic Calming study funded by the City and the SRTS study together. So until the DOT has time to move on this item, the studies are on hold. David Park states that Hal has agreed to give him updates monthly.
  - iii. **Neighborhood Flooding:** Diane Cece indicated that the Operating Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for March 28.
  - iv. **Neighborhood Cleanups:** Laurel circulated a flyer she had drafted for the ENNA Spring Cleanups. Scheduled are a 'Neighborhood Cleanup' in the vicinity of City Hall for April 21, and a 'Shoreline Cleanup' in the vicinity of Veterans Park for April 28. Laurel indicated that she plans to get flyers to local schools to go home with students.
- c. Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee Report – Laurel Lindstrom
    - i. Hal Alvord (DPW) and Tom Closter (Health Dept.) presented on garbage concerns.
    - ii. Survey to be completed by attendees to evaluate current effectiveness of MNPC meetings.
  - d. CNNA Report – Laurel Lindstrom
    - i. Development Committee gave report of its formation and mission
    - ii. Budget Committee gave presentation on data it had researched on school funding for Norwalk as compared to other Connecticut towns and cities. Those present questioned the relevance and intent. There was disagreement what, if anything should be done with the information. Plan of the committee had been to use the information in a presentation at the Operating Budget Public Hearing on March 28.
  - e. NPT Report – covered earlier in meeting.
  - f. Trees, Landscape & Adopt-A-Spots – Nick Overall
    - i. Maps of Veterans Park shown to board members. Change of location of proposed mini-golf course from the Vantage Point Condominium side to the SoNo side of the park (recommended by Nick) was discussed. Based on Nick's meeting with Mike Mocciaie the vendor will change the course location as per Nick's suggestion. But board continues to discuss whether the City's proposals are right for the park, and the lack of public input into the planning process is a major concern for board members present.
    - ii. Plan is to clean Adopt-A-Spots during April 21 Cleanup.
  - g. Other:
    - i. Newsletter – Laurel is drafting the spring newsletter and hopes to have it published by March 21 (first day of spring).

6. Other Business – none

7. Next regular board meeting: Wednesday April 11, 2007.

8. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM

Submitted by Laurel Lindstrom