

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

**April 11, 2007
Minutes**

Board Member Attendees: Laurel Lindstrom (president), Maribeth Becker, Gordon Tully, David Park, Erik Nees, Diane Cece, Sarah Hunter

Advisory Board Member Attendees: Nick Overall

Advisory Board Member Absent: Marija Bryant

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.
2. Public Participation – none at this time
3. Minutes
 - a. March 2007 Minutes accepted
4. President's Report – Laurel Lindstrom
 - a. Correspondence discussed re upcoming workshops for nonprofits. Mailings received by the ENNA qualify as junk mail for the most part. The board discussed purchasing a separate P.O. Box for the ENNA but decided against it since a large box would be required just to accommodate the volume of junk mail received.
 - b. Treasury report – Accepted with no questions.
5. Election of Treasurer: Diane Cece elected unanimously
6. Regular Business:
 - a. Watch List Properties
 - i. **73 Strawberry Hill Ave. (old Fitch School):** Laurel Lindstrom reported that the Zoning Plan Review Committee meeting is scheduled for April 12. Presentation of the item may be postponed for another month. On April 10, there was a city meeting where the idea of raising the PRD cap was discussed, but it was decided not to vote on it yet. The proposal is the same plan that went through the Conservation Commission previously and has already been signed off on. The petition that the ENNA circulated last summer presents the case that neighbors do not want to raise the cap on PRDs for this reason – character of the neighborhood, as well as other reasons. It may be that only addressing the PRD cap does not specifically address the 73 Strawberry Hill property. The residents who have voiced an opinion so far have opposed PRDs and favor single family houses. David Park had drafted a resolution in opposition to the PRD that he distributed to the Board. At the meeting he showed photos of 2 historic houses very nearby to the property and explained that it is a community of single family homes, including his own house across from the site. There was discussion on the board voting on a position. Since there is still time the board decided to wait until a subsequent meeting to allow time for a position to be drafted.
 - ii. **Veterans Park:** Laurel Lindstrom has been in daily contact with residents about their concerns. There is currently a petition being circulated and being left in local establishments such as delis for people to read and if they choose, sign. It states opposition to the park being commercialized by the city. Vantage Point/Harborview Condo residents have also been signing it. Shop-owners have circulated it as well. Liquor store that had a petition with many signatures has disappeared. Because this development has no planned public hearing, the commissions that would normally oversee such a thing are not in the process to balance the motivations of city with requests of neighbors. There are a few

things that residents have been encouraged to do: Get in touch with their Common Council person. Demand a public hearing. Explain that neighbors don't want to change the use of the park. Don't want to lose open space. Don't want commercialism. Laurel spoke at the last CNNA about the need for the City to include the public throughout the planning process for all the city parks. There was support for more public involvement. Although Diana Harrington is listed in a notice in the Hour in the apparent newly created position of Development Advisor of Recreation and Parks, there appears to be no comprehensive park planning in the city. We need to focus our energy on the May 16th meeting at Mill Hill. Currently scheduled for 7pm-8pm, but may change. This may be the only chance to make comment on Vet's park plans.

1. The board discussed taking a position on the plans for Vets Park and drafted the following: **The Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association Board of Directors strongly supports comprehensive master planning for Veterans Memorial Park with full participation by the public in the planning process. We oppose the City's current plans for a miniature golf course, batting cages, and amphitheatre because such large scale permanent facilities will negatively impact the character of the park and nearby neighborhoods.** After discussion a vote was taken with six board members in favor of the motion to support the position and one abstention (David Park).

b. Neighborhood Issues/Committees

- i. **Speeding & Traffic:** David Park spoke to Hal Alvord. Hal says he is working with DOT, but it is difficult to know when to involve the public or not. There is a specific planning person hired by the city to review traffic. David put in a call to Chief Rilling to say he'd like to meet with him and with Peter Torrano.
- ii. **Neighborhood Flooding:** Diane Cece says that updates on budgets are just at the end of budget cycles and so it is unclear what money is intended to be distributed. The money is not coming fast enough for residents. The March 2nd storm created floods in areas that hadn't flooded in the last 10 years. This proves that flooding can't be predicted going forward, making the situation that much more urgent to be addressed. Also, Hal Alvord says there are no grants for helping flooding victims. State Rep Chris Perone proposed legislation as a house bill for a "user fee". Diane has concerns because it could have far reaching ramifications for the city of other sorts, such as fees. It is interesting to note that a bill goes through as one sentence, not a lot of detail. Laurel has been in contact with Chris to arrange a 'working meeting' forum with representatives from the DOT and DEP present to address flooding issues for residents in the ENNA area. Copies of a letter from Chris to ENNA were distributed.
- iii. **Neighborhood Cleanups:** Laurel Lindstrom circulated a flyer for Spring Cleanups, and said that she left fliers at the schools in the area to be distributed to the students. 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.
- iv. **Membership drive:** Laurel Lindstrom and Diane Cece will discuss after May. This may include having representative tables at events and distributing flyers.

c. MNPC Report – Laurel Lindstrom

- i. David Tracy, Norwalk Tree Alliance president, was the guest speaker. He gave an overview of the group's activities – including the upcoming Norwalk Tree Festival sponsored by the NTA and the City's Tree Advisory Committee. Laurel is a member of the NTF committee that's been meeting weekly to plan the event scheduled for May 5.

d. CNNA Report – Maribeth Becker

- i. Committee updates
- ii. Information gathering such that police and fire departments might need is a major concern. Right now the information that should be in some city database resides with board of Ed and Budget in pieces. The city wide database should be broken down into "info silos." There was a presentation by Jim Clark from Golden Hill. He explained that 75% of the fire

department's time is spent on research instead of inspections. Money is needed to create a database. Mike Greene will discuss zoning and D zone on May 14, A300, 7:30pm. This should include some Master Plan information. May 12 will be a Wall Street cleanup.

- e. Historic Preservation – no report in Marija's absence
 - f. Trees, Landscape & Adopt-A-Spots – Nick Overall
 - i. Nick will attend to the Adopt-A-Spot. The tree advisory committee is working on planting street trees on Calf Pasture Road. We need to get very involved in this. Nick wants to find historical data. We will need to get public input on this.
 - g. Other:
 - i. Newsletter – Laurel has posted Spring 07 to the site.
7. Other Business – none
8. Next regular board meeting: Wednesday May 9, 2007.
9. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM

Submitted by Sarah Hunter