

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

**December 14, 2005  
Minutes (Final)**

**Board Member Attendees:** Laurel Lindstrom (president), Erik Nees, Marija Bryant, Gordon Tully, Maribeth Becker, Sarah Hunter, Nick Overall (Advisory Board)

**Guests:** Joe Defranco, David Parks, James McLaughlin, Bob Wagman (CNNA), James Stuart, Dianna Witkowsky (Spring Hill Neighborhood Association), George Daon, Don Capone, Chris Perone (State Representative), Emil Albanese (Redevelopment Commission), Jon Rooney

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.

1. Public Participation
  - a. General discussions about condominium development and increased density. Issue raised about the impact on city services. Of particular concern to the ENNA is the proposed development of Norden Park. Bob Wagman comments that it's important to review the upcoming master plan to see what it says about density and projections.
2. Mayor Moccia (7:45). Agenda is suspended to allow Mayor Moccia to address group as scheduled and answer questions from board and public. Mayor's comments include:
  - a. Shares neighbors concerns about impact of Norden Park development
  - b. Need to move forward on West Avenue development to help build a stronger tax base for Norwalk.
  - c. Speeding: source of the problem is "us"; speed bumps are not always the answer. Need to encourage "slow down days", more enforcement; get message into press that speeding is not tolerated.
  - d. East Avenue at RR bridge needs more lights and better crosswalks to maximize pedestrian safety.
  - e. Moratorium on development is an issue that needs to be taken up by the Zoning Commission. Mayor Moccia favors a temporary halt to multi-family developments to enable the zoning commission to study the options.
  - f. Trailers in Andrews Field housing the Rogers Rich Merritt house will be moved to a site donated by Stanley Seligson. Anticipated move in February.
  - g. Q&A session includes comments about:
    - i. Skepticism about the effectiveness of getting people to slow down on Strawberry Hill Avenue without a major change to the roadway.
    - ii. Question about West Avenue plan and whether it will increase the tax base or increase the tax burden on citizens. Mayor stresses the importance of moving forward on West Avenue and not putting roadblocks in the way of progress on that project. Sees it as pivotal to getting other projects started.
    - iii. Need for more police officers, community policing, and bike patrols. Mayor mentions the efforts that he and Chief Rilling are making to obtain 1.8 million in Federal funds that have been "stuck" in the Washington pipeline. Suggests that CNNA draft a letter to Federal representatives to encourage the release of the funding.
  - h. Mayor Moccia concludes and leaves at 8:35.
3. Feedback and comments on Mayors discussion
  - a. Gordon Tully suggests that citizens raise their concerns and present ideas to Bob Wagman (CNNA) and Laurel Lindstrom (ENNA) who will take appropriate actions to raise the issues with the relevant city officials or agencies.
  - b. Chris Perone mentions that having a citywide campaign re speeding may be a way to have greater impact on calming speeders. Build on the Mayor's suggestion and initiative.
4. Programs and Projects:
  - a. Lea Manor: No application filed yet.
  - b. Liberty Square Neighborhood Center Improvement Project

- i. ENNA plan is being reviewed by redevelopment committee. There are four submissions from other groups. Emil Albanese mentions that the submissions were discussed last Monday and that the ENNA proposal was one of the most comprehensive.
    - c. Norden Park.
      - i. Application for 316 condo units has been filed. Requires a zone change from current restricted industrial to residential. Laurel Lindstrom attended the zoning committee meeting and conservation committee meeting re the proposed development of the site. Earliest that the proposal will go to public hearing is February.
      - ii. Planning Commission has formed a committee to review all the industrial zones in Norwalk to determine their relevance/appropriateness given the current economic and development situation.
      - iii. No access from Westport side except for a locked “emergency” exit. This was presented in the original application but Attorney Zullo said “no access at all” in most recent presentation.
      - iv. 110 units are proposed for the Westport side but Westport P&Z has jurisdiction over those.
      - v. Traffic study showed that traffic at Beacon and Strawberry Hill would back up; recommended adding a signal.
      - vi. Bob Wagman asks if Westport is concerned about the impact on their town, roads, and train station. Westport master plan is also long overdue and neighbors may be concerned about the impact.
      - vii. Marija Bryant presents the idea of moving the East Norwalk train station to the site to make the development more public transportation oriented. Chris Perone volunteers to find out what is involved in moving the train station – is it feasible? Comment is made that two stations on the Danbury line were recently moved.
5. Minutes
- a. September minutes accepted unanimously. November minutes with changes to be reviewed at January meeting.
6. Reports:
- a. Treasurer’s Report – Gordon Tully
    - i. See attached for statement of financial status of ENNA.
    - ii. Gordon Tully comments that there are percentage limits to contributions from single organizations; one-third of contributions need to come from public sources.
    - iii. Letter has been drafted to contributors to inform of 501 3-c status and tax deductibility of contributions.
  - b. President’s Report – Laurel Lindstrom
    - i. See attached president’s report.
    - ii. Announcement of Pace University courses targeted to non-profits – organizing, operating, reporting, etc.
    - iii. Funding is required to enable printing of adequate quantities of “At Your Fingertips”. Suggestion is to consider selling “sponsorship” of the guide. Laurel Lindstrom has requested a donation of printing from The Hour and will check with the Chamber of Commerce.
  - c. Newsletter
    - i. Due to holiday commitments, board members request a change in the original schedule to move the submission of articles to after the holidays. New suggested print date: January 15, 2006.
  - d. Tree Liaison – Nick Overall
    - i. Nick presents update of the free tree program.
7. New business -- None
8. Next regular board meeting: Wednesday January 11, 2006
9. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Marija Bryant, Secretary.