

**CITY OF NORWALK  
NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 4, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** David Shockley, Chairman; Mayor Richard Moccia; Christine Abraham; Hal Alvord; Laurel Anderson; Helen Bryan; Jim Clark; Tom Closter; Dori Wilson; Katherine Griffing; Michael Mocciae; Don Nelson; Mark Pierce; Al Raymond; Laurel Lindstrom; Leigh Grant; Fred Eshraghi; Ernst deFlines; Maribeth Becker; Deputy Police Chief Mark Palmer (10:30); Tia Sidey; Kelly Straniti; Dorothy Romanelli; John Romanelli.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by the Chairman.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE DECEMBER 7, 2005 MEETING MINUTES**

The following corrections were made: On page 1, under "Attendance", Mr. Clark's name was added. Under "Review & Approve November 2, 2005 Minutes", 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence, the spelling of "various" was corrected.

- \*\* **MR. NELSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**
- \*\* **MR. CLARK SECONDED.**
- \*\* **MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MRS. STRANITI).**

**NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Chairman read the memo from Michael Moore, the Senior Community Development Project Manager from the Redevelopment Agency:

**TO: DAVID SHOCKLEY, NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT  
COORDINATOR**

**FROM: MICHAEL MOORE,  
SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGER**

**DATE: JANUARY 4, 2006**

**RE: UPDATE - NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM**

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The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency) has received four applications from Neighborhood Preservation Committee  
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established neighborhood organizations who seek to access funding from the first year of the *Neighborhood Centers Improvement Program (Neighborhood Centers)*. *Neighborhood Centers* is to serve as a tool to assist established neighborhood groups to plan and implement long-term improvements to centrally located neighborhood areas: *Neighborhood Centers* is structured as a three-year commitment of City and Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency) resources. In Year One (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006) the successful recipients will have access to a pool of \$80,000 to procure those architectural and engineering services needed to formulate proposals to address needed improvements or complete the development of any existing conceptual drawings or proposals.

#### Current Actions and Next Steps

A committee, comprised of local appointed and elected officials, has been established to review application submittals. This committee met in December 2005 and made recommendations regarding funding. Agency staff is in the process of contacting each applicant to discuss next steps. Agency staff is in the process of notifying the applicants regarding the review committee's recommendations. Once Agency staff has had the opportunity to contact each applicant, Agency staff will work with the applicants, which have been recommended for funding, to address questions or issues raised by the review committee. Once these issues and concerns are resolved the Agency will develop a formal agreement with the applicants that are recommended for funding.

### **GOLDEN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

#### **GRAFFITI CONCERNS WITHIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

Mr. Clark said they have done graffiti removal at the cleanups, but they now find some graffiti on State property, such as on ramp signs off of I-95, and he asked how they could deal with this. High fencing would be a deterrent. The Chairman suggested he contact Customer Service and said this would then be forwarded to the State. Mr. Alvord said they are working with the DOT on a new signage program on I-95 and asked Mr. Clark to provide him with information on locations with fencing problems. However, he was not confident that the DOT would be enthusiastic about dealing with this.

### **EASTERN NORWALK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Ms. Lindstrom said that traffic issues are being looked into. It was helpful to have the Mayor at their Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association meeting in December.

Ms. Lindstrom asked about Fitch Park equipment safety. Mr. Moccia said that the equipment meets State standards and is new equipment.

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Regarding the vandalism at Calf Pasture, Mayor Moccia said there are leads being pursued by the police. The reward fund is up to \$1,200. Mr. Moccia said all of the equipment, except for the scoreboard, has been fixed.

Ms. Lindstrom said they are looking to have "Know Your Town" directories printed for the League of Women Voters of Norwalk. The neighborhood association is printing up 200-300 at a time of its expanded directory "Norwalk At Your Fingertips", which she distributed to everyone present.

Mr. Eshraghi said they have done a study on Golden Hill and he received the results of that study. Regarding Strawberry Hill Avenue, Mr. Eshraghi said there is a plan to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph and 20 mph during school hours and the entire area will be made a school zone. Signs will be installed. Mayor Moccia said he and Chief Rilling are working to institute slow down days again. In the next few weeks, they will hopefully have five new officers, with more visibility, for enforcement. Speeding is a serious problem and more enforcement is required. He will ask the Legislature to give the City 20% of the ticket income. This is his number one agenda item.

### **HARBOR SHORES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Mrs. Romanelli spoke about the graffiti on the new playground equipment; they are watching to observe young people who are hanging around. In addition, she is working with the Chairman to schedule a cleanup.

### **YOST STREET DRAINAGE**

The Chairman said that a service request was forwarded to Public Works. The drain needs to be lowered, which will be done in the spring.

Mr. Moccia said that the graffiti had been taken care of.

The Chairman said that he and Mr. Alvord will meet with neighborhoods regarding bulky cleanups and prepare a schedule.

### **MEADOW STREET**

There was no discussion on this item.

### **BROAD RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Mrs. Straniti said that the footpath looks wonderful. Regarding signage on New Canaan Avenue, people are complaining. She spoke about parking problems, which are worse in the winter (Wendy's, John's Best, etc.). Dumping also takes place at these sites.

## **WEST MAIN STREET**

This organization would like a cleanup; the Chairman said it would be facilitated.

At 10:30 a.m., Deputy Chief Palmer arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Wilson spoke of the West Main Street plan that has been submitted in the form of an application to the ZBA for housing on the corner of West Main Street and Jefferson Street.

## **SPRING HILL/HOSPITAL AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

### **TRAFFIC STUDY REVIEW**

Mr. Eshraghi reviewed the intersection of Benedict and Truman. They are recommending a three-way intersection. The report will be sent to the Traffic Authority. Mr. Raymond said there is concern about plans to make Benedict one way going to the hospital. He asked about making Truman a dead end street. Mr. Alvord said this cannot be done because of the restriction of traffic, and extensive discussion took place. Mr. Pierce asked about the installation of a speed hump. Mayor Moccia said they would be moving away from the use of these items.

Regarding Main and Wall streets, Mr. Raymond asked what happened to the flags. Mayor Moccia said they were taken down for the winter. They will go back up in good weather.

## **WILTON AVENUE**

Mr. Pierce said their issue is still the three way stop on Wilton Avenue. Mr. Eshraghi said it is difficult to put a three way stop there. The Chairman said that the issue is putting in a crosswalk for the schoolchildren. Mr. Pierce said everyone on the street is in favor; Mr. Eshraghi will further review.

Deputy Chief Palmer said that the police can look into a crossing guard if necessary; Mr. Pierce said most of the children take the bus.

Mr. Eshraghi said he would hopefully have a resolution by the next meeting.

Deputy Chief Palmer said that the Wilton Avenue area would be a good target for slow down days.

## **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Mr. Alvord said they would be “going live” in two weeks. Development of software continues. He encouraged anyone with questions, complaints or concerns to contact Customer Service.

## **CITY SCAN UPDATE**

Ms. Anderson reviewed 2005 statistics and congratulated the Police Department for their quick removal of abandoned vehicles. She said if any neighborhood groups want scans to be done, they should contact the Chairman. The Chairman said that 99% of the scans in 2005 were done by Briggs students.

## **TREE ALLIANCE**

### **FREE TREE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mr. Nelson said that the Tree Advisory Committee and Public Works will work more directly with neighborhood associations through their liaisons. They need to ascertain the boundaries of the neighborhoods. They will also try to make sure that every neighborhood has a liaison, whose job is to identify where the trees are, planting sites, safety issues and planting new trees. They want to address tree planning on a neighborhood basis rather than individually.

Leigh Grant said that the Silvermine Association met with CL&P prior to cutting down trees. She would like there to be a pre-selection committee in order to avoid over cutting. Mr. Alvord said that the City does not have a contract with CL&P but they have a permitting process that was put into place in 2005. Tree liaisons can be very effective in this process. It is encouraged in the permit document that CL&P coordinate with neighborhood associations.

Mrs. Grant asked about requiring licensed arborists. Mr. Alvord said that the contractors are required to be at the meeting regarding permitting and the foreman must be English-speaking.

Tia Sidey, Rowayton Avenue, asked if the City will remove invasive trees, such as Elantis. Mr. Nelson said they have not addressed trees. Mr. Alvord said that, from a tree removal standpoint, they do not have sufficient resources in their tree removal contract. There is a two-year backlog. They are requesting more funds in their operating budget. In response to a question from Ms. Sidey, Mr. Alvord said that the contracts guarantee trees provided by the City for the first year.

The Chairman inquired about the number of trees they would like to put out. Mr. Alvord said that Parks & Recreation and Public Works have combined their funds. They are using the Golden Hill Association as a model.

## **GRAFFITI ABATEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Chairman said they have been using the AIC program. They have contributed over 250 man hours toward graffiti removal. They plan to continue this in 2006.

## NEW BUSINESS

### GARBAGE ISSUES ON WALL STREET

Mrs. Lyons was not present for discussion. Customer Service has worked on this issue. Mayor Moccia said there is an issue with property owners, enforcement and education.

Mrs. Grant said there is an ongoing conversation of complaints about not being able to use the bridge (Perry Avenue) two ways. In addition, people are concerned about the railings. This bridge continues to deteriorate into the river. Mr. Alvord said this repair will take place in the spring.

Mrs. Grant said that the CVS on Perry Avenue continues to be a problem. Delivery trucks park on Perry Avenue rather than in the parking lot. It is a traffic hazard, with people turning left on Perry Avenue and ending up on the railroad tracks.

Ms. Wilson said that the Land Use Committee would hold a public workshop on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Deputy Chief Palmer will have a letter sent to CVS about trucks parking on Perry Avenue.

Mr. Pierce said this is also a problem with the Ash Creek Saloon; Deputy Chief Palmer will follow up.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco  
Telesco Secretarial Services