

**CITY OF NORWALK  
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2008**

**ATTENDANCE:** David Shockley, Redevelopment; Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill N.A.; Jim Clark, Golden Hill N.A.; Michelle DeLuca, Deputy Director of Emergency Management, Mark Pierce, Wilton Avenue N.A.; Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital N.A.; Marcia Powell, Village Creek Homeowner's Association; Michael Moccia, Recreation and Parks Director; Frank Strauch, Planning and Zoning; Christine Abraham, Maribeth Becker, CNNA; Leigh Grant, NASH; Lee Bernandino, Marilyn Maitland, Health Department; Mayor Richard Moccia (10:19 a.m.); Gordon Sweeny (10:26 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Connie Blair, Public Works Customer Service.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:13

**WELCOMING REMARKS**

Mr. Shockley greeted everyone and said he would give a yearly review shortly.

**APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2007**

The following changes were noted:

Under the Header, and Footer on each page, please change the date from December 15<sup>th</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Under **ATTENDANCE**: Please change the following from:

“ Marcia Powell, Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital N.A.; Village Creek Homeowners Association” to “ Marcia Powell, Village Creek Homeowners Association Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital N.A.”

Page 2, paragraph 5, line one: please change “and combinations” to “and combination”

Page 3, paragraph four, line one: please change “and Wilton Avenue” to “and Wilson Avenue”

- \*\* MR. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**
- \*\* MS. DELUCA SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER UPDATE**

Ms. Blair distributed a copy of the Customer Service 2007 Overview to those present. She then reviewed the numbers of calls for DPW. The report also included diagrams of the forms that DPW Customer Service to log and track the calls.

*Mayor Moccia joined the meeting at 10:19 a.m.*

Mr. Pierce asked if there was a direct line to Customer Service. Ms. Blair said that with the new City Hall phone system, the calls go to the main menu and then the caller can press #4 to go directly to Customer Service.

There will be an additional lawn and leaf pick up, which will be on the regular garbage pick up day. This is posted on the website and will be in the newspaper.

The Additional Street Light request process has changed. Customer Service will take the request, and forward it to the Public Works Committee and then Customer Service will follow up.

### **SUMMARY OF 2007 MEETING ACTIVITIES AND BRAINSTORMING FOR 2008 SPEAKERS**

Mr. Shockley then reviewed the past year's events with the group. He reminded everyone about when Atty. Maslin addressed the group about zoning regulations while former Mayor Zullo updated everyone on the eminent domain issue; two speakers from Keep America Beautiful had highlighted the benefits of engaging volunteer litter cleanup and related environmental concerns; City staff had provided an overview of the of trash and garbage regulations, and proper Bulky Waste disposal; David Tracy, Norwalk Tree Alliance informed everyone on the Norwalk Tree Program, the importance of Urban Forest planning, and highlighted Norwalk's designation of "Tree City USA". An overview of the West Ave. Project was provided by a member of the Seligson staff while Todd Bryant reviewed the Historic Districts and explained the possible tax credits for Norwalk homeowners. An information session on the City and State noise ordinance was given by Police Lt. Resnick.

Mr. Shockley also pointed out that there had been several projects that had been brought to a successful conclusion such as the Keep Norwalk Beautiful campaign engaged an estimated 429 volunteers who contributed approximately 1,416 man hours of community service labor, and collected over 25,000 pounds of litter and debris from Norwalk's parks,

riverbanks, wetlands, and roadways or when Diageo provided 50 volunteers to conduct a community service project at Roodner Court by cleaning the play park and basketball courts and providing new plantings and G.E. provided 30 volunteers to refurbish the Tea Garden at Cranbury Park. Other successful projects were: approximately 140 volunteers participated in the campaign for Norwalk. Parks were beautified, and a several senior citizens' received home improvements.

There was a donation of approximately two thousand dollars from corporations to assist with the purchase of plantings, and handicap railings. Weichert Relocation Resources Inc. donated \$1,000.00 for plantings at Devon's Place play park in Norwalk. Over 900 daffodil bulbs were planted by volunteers at Devon's Place this fall.

Four volunteers from the Wilton Avenue Neighborhood Association teamed up to power wash and add preservative to the front and rear wheelchair ramps belonging to an elderly woman in Norwalk.

Approximately 140 volunteers accepted this invitation to become involved with "Make A Difference Day" to make someone else's life more pleasant in Norwalk.

During 2007 an estimated 914 volunteers engaged in community service projects benefiting the City of Norwalk and its residents.

Overall, Mr. Shockley said the neighborhood associations participating in the Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Task Force Meetings have been a very positive influence and have set a very fine example for others to follow.

Mr. Shockley said that he would be happy to hear from any of the members about suggestions for the upcoming year.

Mayor Moccia said he had been in contact with a number of green energy groups and mentioned that the Governor had committed to reducing green house gases by 20%. The Mayor said that he had spoken with two groups and felt they might be appropriate for the meeting.

Mr. Clark said that at the Golden Hill N.A. meeting, the attendees had realized that they were not prepared for emergencies. Mayor Moccia pointed out that The Hour had a whole flyer insert in the paper on the day before Thanksgiving. There was a brief discussion on obtaining additional copies of the flyer.

Ms. Grant said that she would like to hear about public transportation and suggested that Mr. Shulman come to talk about the bus system. She also said that she would like to hear about the Norwalk River Watershed. Mr. Shockley commented that many of the seniors are unaware of the individual transportation services available for them.

Mr. Pierce asked about the government mandate regarding incandescent lighting. Mr. Shockley said that he could look into this and could contact CL&P about this topic.

Mr. Clark asked if Mr. Hamilton would be coming to address the group. The Mayor suggested that this might be scheduled after March when the budget process is finished.

Ms. Grant asked about having a speaker about the education. Mayor Moccia suggested that Mary Budrawich who is coordinating the Early Childhood Education program come and address the group. He added that when early childhood intervention is used, the results are staggering because the number of problems for juveniles drops dramatically.

Mr. Clark suggested having the Grants Coordinator come to have a dialog with the group about the possible grant opportunities. Mayor Moccia said that a number of recent grants had been approved. He also suggested that the group consider inviting one of the Harbor Commissioners to come in and talk about the dredging the Harbor and how that impacts Norwalk businesses.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **City Staff**

Ms. DeLuca then said that ConnectCTY was similar to the Reverse 9-1-1 program. It is a mass notification system. This company is a Web based program, with call centers throughout the United States. This gives them access to millions of phone lines, and the company does all the calling. With the Reverse 9-1-1 program, the City would have to own the phone lines and maintain them. There is also a pro-active component, which allows the municipality to target a special group, such as educational announcement, or letting residents know that fire hydrants are being flushed. The Mayor said that he would have final approval on the number and type of messages that will be going out to the residents. The system had been used to locate missing Alzheimer's patients and then notifications went out once the person was located. Each household will have six points of contact, so contact can be established via landlines, voice mail, voice over IP, emails, text messages, and cell phones that are specifically registered. There are also options to send messages in other languages. Cell phones must be registered by the user to receive the calls. This program can also include the caregivers for the elderly.

The Mayor said that although most of this will be covered by grant funding, there will be a time when it may not be. Over the last year, the State has been reducing the Home Land Security funding. Local companies may be asked to assist with the costs. This is a public safety and health concern. He said that he hoped Norwalk will never have to use it for a major disaster, but the most vulnerable are the elderly and those who can not move easily.

*Ms. Maitland left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.*

Ms. Grant then asked about those who have unlisted phone numbers. Ms. DeLuca said that those with unlisted numbers would only receive the emergency calls.

Mr. Moccia said that there would be a public meeting regarding Veteran's Park. There will be a speaker on creating Master Plans for parks. Friends of Cranbury Park will also be there.

### **Neighborhood Representatives**

Maribeth Becker said Coalition of Neighborhoods would be meeting on the 23rd. Mr. Green from Planning and Zoning and Ms. Lightfield from the Planning Commission will be there to address the group.

Mayor Moccia said that there had been some concerns about using City property for Neighborhood Associations meetings. If they book the meeting as a sub-group of the Mayor's Preservation Meeting, the group will not have to provide an insurance certificate. He asked that the groups check with Maribeth Becker about this. Ms. Becker said that she would be turning over her chairmanship at the end of January to someone else.

Mr. Pierce said that someone had constructed a new fence and then put all their garbage on the hillside behind it. There was a question about who owns the hillside. The owner pushed the old fence down the hillside with the garbage. This will be looked into.

Ms. Bernandino said that the garbage at the corner of Lowe Street and Cleveland Terrace is becoming a problem.

Mr. Pierce also reported that #4 Golden Hill has a refrigerator with the door still on it behind their garage.

Mr. Clark said that there were two concerns from Golden Hill. There have been a number of disturbances at Flax Hill Park. Mr. Moccia said that the gates have been locked for the winter. Mr. Clark said that the caller had acknowledged this, but the problem persists. The Mayor said that this is a citywide problem with other small parks and schoolyards. He said that the Police Department may be adding three more police officers. Mr. Clark said that there were a number of people concerned about this and that Golden Hill may have an event in the park to make the residents more aware of the park.

Secondly on Cedar Street and also by Benjamin Franklin, it would be helpful to have garbage receptacles. Ms. Blair said that Customer Service had received a request for advertising on the garbage receptacles.

Ms. Powell pointed out that there are three streets in her area that have not been paved in fifteen years. The roads have potholes and there is erosion along the edges.

Mr. Sweeny said that the Spinnaker Group that is developing 95/7 did a traffic study. Mr. Sweeny asked if he could get a copy of this study.

Ms. Grant reported that one of the new Silvermine signs on North Seir Hill has been vandalized by sawing through the base of the sign, so that it was not just the work of young vandals. This was a wrought iron sign made by the Silvermine Guild,

Ms. Abrams said that the West Main and Summer Street project has a new developer. The developer will be removing the large mountains of soil will be removed in the next few days. The developer will have to go back to Planning and Zoning for approval, so the building will be boarded up. Dumpsters will be provided for the residents and the dumpster will be locked at night.

Ms. Whitmore is having a problem with traffic being rerouted from Main Street to West Main.

Mayor Moccia thanked everyone for attending.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Service