

City of Norwalk
Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Meeting
November 1, 2006

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Richard Moccia, David Shockley, Chairman; Christine Abraham, West Main Street Neighborhood Association; Maribeth Becker, CNNA; Connie Blair, Customer Service; Helen Bryan, West Main Street Neighborhood Association; Marilyn Maitland, Health Department; Leigh Grant, Silvermine Association; Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill Association; Moravia Langley, Meadow Street; Barbara Felter, Broad River Neighborhood Association; Don Nelson, Tree Alliance; Mark Pierce; Wilton Avenue Neighborhood Association; Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital Neighborhood Association; Aline Rochefort, Zoning Department; Dorothy Romanelli, Harbor Shores Neighborhood Association; John Romanelli, Harbor Shores; Inspector John Lombia, Norwalk Fire Department; Nancy J. Whitmore, West Main Street; Gloria Seymour, Tracey Area; Robert Wagman, West Norwalk

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:02 p.m.

1. Review and approve October 4, 2006 meeting minutes

The following correction was noted:

Attendees: Please add "Lee Levey, Silvermine" to the list of attendees.

** MS. GRIFFING MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE October 4, 2006 meeting AS CORRECTED.

** MS. ROMANELLI SECONDED.

** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Moccia greeted everyone and expressed his concerns about the shooting death of a Norwalk teenager the previous night in Meadow Gardens. He also commented that a gang calling themselves the "Avenue Kids" had frequently been observed on Westport Avenue and that this could be a potential problem. Mayor Moccia also said that security cameras had been installed at Kendall school.

Chairman Shockley informed the members that Mr. Alvord was not able to attend the meeting due to a conflict in scheduling.

B. West Main Street, Christine Abraham

Ms. Abraham commented that the developer was addressing some issues near Jefferson and Summer Streets. She also informed the group that a pair of sneakers had been thrown over the wires at the corner of Ward and Center Streets. Ms. Blair duly noted this.

C. Meadow Street, Moravia Langley

Ms. Langley said that the clean up day by Tauk World Discovery had gone very well and that she was pleased with the outcome. Ms. Langley stated that more police were needed in the Meadow Street area and that the children in her neighborhood were very

upset about the previous night's shooting incident. She suggested that perhaps handing out more trespassing tickets would reduce the number of loiterers in the area. Mayor Moccia agreed to consider this. He also complimented Ms. Langley on her efforts to improve her neighborhood. Ms. Langley thanked everyone and said that she needed to leave for another meeting.

D. Harbor Shores Neighborhood Association; Dorothy Romanelli

Ms. Romanelli passed around pictures of the tennis courts at Woodward Park and commented that the courts are being used. She requested that the weeds be cut on a regular basis to allow the courts to be used.

Ms. Romanelli said that she had spent some time researching who owns the Baxter Park Seawall, which was damaged by Ernesto. A quit claim from 1955 was discovered which indicates that the City was "gifted" the ownership of the seawall. Ms. Romanelli said that if the wall continues to deteriorate, the street will also be undermined. Mayor Moccia asked Ms. Romanelli for copies of the quit claim so that Corporation Counsel could confirm the research. Ms. Romanelli said that she would make a copy for the Mayor.

1. Deer committee progress report

Chairman Shockley said that he had spoken about the deer problem at the CNNA meeting and that only the Tracey Area Neighborhood Association had expressed any interest. Ms. Romanelli commented that the woman who had been interested in urban deer control had reported that she doesn't have the time to facilitate the program, but is willing to help out. Ms. Romanelli said that in recent years, the deer population has exploded and that there needs to be some way to deal with them, particularly because of Lyme's Disease.

E. Lexington Avenue Neighborhood Association; Donnie Sellers

Mr. Sellers said that there had been two new residents who joined the Lexington Avenue Association. He also informed the group that letters had gone out to landlords about tenants who move and leave trash and other large items on the street at their former location. If the landlords do not respond, Mr. Sellers said, he plans to contact the Health Department.

G. Golden Hill Neighborhood Association; Jim Clark

Ms. Griffing said that she would be giving the report for Mr. Clark. The Association is still working on identifying illegal apartments in her area.

H. Norwalk Association of Silvermine Homeowners; Leigh Grant

Ms. Grant said that there were no pressing issues in her area.

I. Tracey Area Neighborhood Association; Gloria Seymour

Ms. Seymour said that there were some pending inquiries at Customer Service about curbing. She said that she believes that mapping of the curbing had been done along with a traffic study. Ms. Seymour reported that one of the residents had expressed disillusionment with the City for their lack of action regarding the curbing and the lack of

enforcement on the "No Thru Truck" signs. Mayor Moccia said that he was sorry to hear that the resident was disillusioned, but that according to state law, the restriction of truck traffic only applies to trucks that do not originate in the municipality and therefore is very difficult to enforce. He commented that this had also been an issue in Rowayton.

Ms. Seymour also asked about the plans for widening the roads and Mayor Moccia responded that road widening was not an issue for this committee. He suggested that she speak with someone in Redevelopment about that project.

Ms. Seymour concluded by saying that she had concerns about the lack of ordinances created by the City that actually protect the residents.

J. Wilton Avenue, Mark Pierce

Mr. Pierce reported that one of the commercial trucks that had been parking for a long time in his neighborhood has been removed. The remaining truck is registered, but Mr. Pierce does not believe that the vehicle is in running condition. Mayor Moccia suggested that a green sticker be put on the truck.

There was a brief discussion regarding the request for no parking on Grand Street. This is still under review.

Mr. Pierce said that a new Yield sign had been installed in one of the crosswalks but that he noticed it was fairly small. He asked that a larger sign be installed.

Mr. Pierce expressed concerns about youth who are on the street at 11 p.m. Chairman Shockley will speak with Fred about what might be done. The problem, the Mayor pointed out, was that there are issues of civil rights involved and that unless the youths are breaking the law, they have the right to be there. One of the other women commented that when this problem had happened in her area, she would call the police and request that they drive by a few times, which usually resulted in the crowd dispersing.

K. Spring Hill/Hospital Area Neighborhood Association; Al Raymond.

Mr. Raymond commented that there had been a large number of children out in his neighborhood on Halloween. He also expressed concerns about a group of youths who had been standing in the street at Stuart Avenue. He commented that the group would not move when cars approached, forcing the drivers to go around them.

Mr. Sellers commented that as a thirty year veteran of the police force, he has noticed that the youth are changing. It has become more difficult to engage today's youth in constructive activities. He also commented that it seems that the police have moved from auxiliary policing to liability policing.

L. Broad River Neighborhood Association; Diane Lockwood

Ms. Felter stated that she was present to report to the Committee. She said that she had compiled a list of removal services that were violating the noise ordinance at the Broad River Homes. Mr. Nelson asked that she send the list to him so that he could pass it along to Harry. The research on the telephone poles continues.

M. Customer Service; Connie Blair

Ms. Blair distributed information on snow removal and yard waste to the Committee members for distribution to their various associations.

Mayor Moccia commented that the City website had a copy of the upcoming election ballots for those who wished to access the information.

Mr. Wagman from the West Norwalk Association said that he wanted to express his sorrow at seeing the report of previous night's shooting. The Mayor commented that the City had worked very hard to reduce violence and started a number of round table discussions and committees in an effort to prevent this type of situation from happening. Mr. Sellers commented that this is not limited to the SONO area, but can happen anywhere.

N. Tree Alliance; Don Nelson

Mr. Nelson said that the tree planting is completed for this year and that the Neighborhood Associations need to make plans for next spring. Ms. Romanelli stated that the Harbor Shores area was still waiting for their trees to be planted. Mr. Nelson explained that Pam had not come back from vacation when expected and therefore the tree planting in that neighborhood had not been facilitated. Ms. Romanelli asked if the trees for her area had been ordered. Mr. Nelson said that the tree order had not been placed, but that the funds were still available.

Ms. Felter said that the Broad River Fire Station wished to plant a memorial tree in memory of a fatality and that they had not been able to find out how to do this. Mr. Nelson said that he would contact them.

O. City Scan; Laurel Anderson

Ms. Anderson said that this project will resume in the spring.

P. New Business

Spring Hill/Hospital Association.

1. Illicit night time activities by teens at Kendall School grounds.

Mr. Raymond explained that Ms. Paladino was not able to attend the meeting to express her concerns. The Mayor stated that security cameras had been installed at Kendall School.

Mr. Raymond then asked how the bulky waste collection day had gone. Ms. Blair said that it did not go as well as hoped because of the weather and also because there was some confusion on the part of the residents regarding the actual date. However, she added that the day had gone much better than expected considering the weather.

Q. Adjournment

** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.

** MR. RAYMOND SECONDED.

** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services