

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: David Shockley, Redevelopment, Chair; Christine Abrams, West Norwalk N.A.; Jim Clark, Golden Hill Association; Leigh Grant, N.A.S.H.; Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill Association; Marilyn Maitland, Norwalk Health Department; John Lomba, Norwalk Fire Department, Don Nelson, Tree Alliance; Marcia Powell, Village Creek Home Owners Association (10:15 a.m.); Nathan Dillard, Wall Street Association; Michael Moore, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency; Lindsay McCurran, Planning and Zoning; Aline Rochefort, Planning and Zoning, Mark Pierce, Wilton Avenue N.A.; Lee Berardino; Mayor Richard A. Moccia (10:16 a.m.); Maribeth Becker (10:18 a.m.); Laurel Lindstrom, ENNA (10:18 a.m.); Lt. Paul Resnick, Norwalk Police Department (10:25 a.m.)

STAFF: Michelle Boccanfuso, Customer Service Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**WELCOMING REMARKS AND REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF
THE JANUARY 9, 2008 MINUTES**

**** MR. PIERCE MOVED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2008.**

**** MS. GRIFFING SECONDED.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under **ATTENDANCE**: please change "Christine Abraham" to "Christine Abraham, West Main Street N.A."

Page 2, paragraph 7, line 2: please change "Atty. Maslin" to "Atty. Maslan"

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Ms. Boccanfuso gave out copies of the updated service report.

Mr. Pierce from the Wilton Avenue N.A. informed Ms. Boccanfuso that the yield crosswalk sign is down in front of 32 Wilton Avenue. He also asked about how much longer until the No Parking sign goes up at the corner of Grey Rock and Wilton Avenue, which is a state road. Ms. Boccanfuso will follow up.

Auto Zone has now relocated across the street from its former location and people are already doing oil changes in the parking lot. He added that he had pictures of the customers working on their vehicles in the parking lot. Ms. Grant commented that she had understood that Auto Zone had the right to use the parking lot and this was part of an on going lawsuit.

Marcia Powell joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Ms. Rochefort, asked Mr. Pierce to send her the copies of the pictures he had taken of the people working on the vehicles in the parking lot. Mr. Moore commented that in Ohio, the local Auto Zones had large signs in the lot that stated people were not allowed to work on their vehicles in the parking lots.

Mayor Moccia joined the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

CT transit still dropping people off in front of People's Bank. A discussion followed and the Mayor asked if Mr. Shulman had been contacted. Mr. Pierce said that it was the CT Transit buses.

Ms. Becker and Ms. Lindstrom joined the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Mr. Shockley said that he would check into this.

Mr. Pierce asked about the garbage along Horton Street. Ms. Maitland from the Health Department said that she had cited everyone along the street and the situation will be corrected.

Ms. Grant said that there was an accident at Comstock above Apple Tree and the arrow signs are down. Ms. Boccanfuso made a note of this.

Ms. Berardino said that there was a resident on her street that does not bring in the garbage cans. Mr. Shockley suggested that Ms. Berardino call Customer Service to report this.

Mr. Moore commented about the amount of trash on Wall Street. Mr. Shockley asked that locations be noted. The Mayor said that fines have been issues, and that one particular building had been issued citations and that the City is working on it.

Ms. Becker said that the next Coalition meeting would be on Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall.

**PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDANCE CHRIS OKAFOR AND
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT DWAYNE SULLINS TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY
RELATED ACTIVITIES DPW WISHES TO ACCOMPLISH WITHIN THE
NEIGHBORHOODS.**

Mr. Shockley said that he had been working with Mr. Okafor and that Mr. Okafor and Mr. Sullins would be present at the March Meeting.

Mr. Moore, from Redevelopment, came forward to speak about brown fields, which are environmentally contaminated. A public forum is scheduled for February 11th at Police Department in community room. Mr. Shockley distributed a flyer about the Brownfields Forum. Brown fields are parcels of land that are suspected of having an industrial past and have environmental remnants of the industrial past. An inventory will be done of these sites. Engaging the community will also be included in the program. Mr. Shockley has emailed the neighborhood groups. Mr. Moore then encouraged everyone to come. Federal, State and local officials will be speaking. The Police Station was also a brown site, along with the Lock Building, both of which have been cleaned up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Staff

Mayor Moccia said that he had attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C. and that the discussion was on encouraging the Federal government to reinvest in infrastructures. The City will be receiving six million dollars to work on the Harbor dredging. The City will also be looking at energy conservation in the future.

The Capital Budget has been released to the public and there is a sizable portion of funding is dedicated towards the flooding issues. The Mayor said that the Capital Budget should reflect where the City is financially and that another four million dollars will be allocated to paving roads along with the flooding issues.

Mr. Pierce said that an earlier discussion today, there were concerns about the sidewalks. The Mayor explained that the sidewalks are the property owners' responsibility. He added that while Norwalk has a snow-shoveling ordinance, but he also pointed out that it was difficult to enforce. Ms. Griffing asked about the shoveling around Ben Franklin. The Mayor said that Ben Franklin was leased to NEON and he was not sure what the agreement was with the lease.

Lt. Resnick joined the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Ms. Grant said that she was happy that the City was taking ownership of the flooding issue. The Mayor explained that the earmarks in Washington are now competitive. It is

also frequently requiring matching funds. The Mayor said that he expected that another 10 to 15 million will have to put into the flooding issues in the future.

Ms. Rochefort introduced Ms. Lindsay McCurran, who is a new staff member in Planning and Zoning.

Lt. Resnick said that he had just given Ms. Maitland from the Health Department an update on a recently reported abandoned car.

Neighborhood Representatives

Ms. Berardino said that now that Rt. 136 has been closed, there are black and white buses that come down Low Street and block it, which forces the traffic up on the sidewalks.

Ms. Grant said that she had received a call from a neighbor about a disturbance in the area and the responding officer apparently did not know the area very well. Lt. Resnick took down the name of the resident who complained and said that he felt it might not have been a global issue, but would have been a specific incident. He added that he would look into it.

Mr. Moore then asked about Commerce Street where people come around the corner at very high speeds. The Mayor said that he has been in office for two plus years, and the most complaints he hears were about speeding. While he was in Washington, the conversation centered on taxes, litter and speeding. Lt. Resnick said that he would have officers do spot checks down there.

Mr. Shockley said that the Kick off for the Keep Norwalk Beautiful was starting. Redevelopment will supply the gloves, bags and litter grabbers. April 26th will be a target date for the general clean ups, but the individual groups could schedule around that. It would be helpful if the various groups would call Redevelopment to give the dates and schedule a location for the bags of garbage to be picked up by DPW. Lt. Resnick reported that one of the officers made an arrest for littering.

Ms. Berardino asked who the Parking Authority was responsible to. The Mayor said that he believed that ultimately they answer to him. Ms. Berardino said that when they give out a ticket the procedure was not clear. The Mayor said that all the instructions were printed on the ticket regarding how to pay the ticket or how to appeal.

Ms. Becker reminded everyone that there was a public hearing on the budget at 7 p.m. tonight. She also added that tonight is the first night for the Norwalk Neighbors Helping Teens at the YMCA.

Ms. Lindstrom then gave out copies of Norwalk at Your Fingertips 2008 to those present.

Mr. Clark said that regarding Hillside and Bayview, the speeding persists and asked if it was possible to put a "Stop Sign Ahead" sign posted on Hillside but closer to Elmwood.

He added that he was looking forward to a great year.

Ms. Powell said that she had photographed the roads discussed in the last meeting and that she would be delivering a CD of the photos to Ms. Boccanfuso.

The Mayor said that there is one more small issue to deal with before the ConnectCTY program contract is signed. However, he was looking forward to the first test message being sent out the residents in the next few weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services