

**CITY OF NORWALK  
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING  
MARCH 1, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman David Shockley; Mayor Richard Moccia; Fire Marshal Glenn Iannaccone; Hal Alvord; Mike Moccia; Fred Eshragi; Tony Capuano; Cheryl Vallerie; Jim Clark; Laurel Lindstrom; Nancy Whitmore; Al Raymond; Don Nelson; Maribeth Becker; Diana Paladino; Deputy Chief Mark Palmer; Gloria Seymour; E. J. DuBois; Leigh Grant; Donna Widhimer; Moravia Langley

**OTHER:**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE FEBRUARY 1, 2006 MEETING MINUTES.**

- \*\* FIRE MARSHAL IANNACONE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 1, 2006 MINUTES**
- \*\* MS. LINDSTROM SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**GOLDEN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; JIM CLARK**

Mr. Clark said there are a number of neighborhood issues and concerns in progress. He said the Golden Hill neighborhood will be on TV this evening on the Food Network, Channel 29 at 10:30 p.m. The show is called "Ham on the Street". The segment is called "Stone Soup" and will feature a chef that recently returned from abroad. The episode is called "Free Food".

**EASTERN NORWALK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; LAUREL LINDSTROM**

Ms. Lindstrom said that the ENNA was holding a Strawberry Hill Avenue Traffic Safety Forum on March 8 at 8 PM in Room A333 at City Hall. Police Chief Rilling and Traffic Engineer Fred Eshragi had kindly agreed to attend. She extended an invitation to those at the meeting to attend the forum. She said she had heard from residents on Howard Avenue requesting that it be made into a one-way street because of the number of speeding vehicles using it as a cut through and the current safety issues. The road is narrow with curves and has cars parked on the street. She suggested to residents that they circulate a petition to home owners on their street supporting a one-way street, but she didn't think it had been done yet. Mayor Moccia acknowledged that the cars parked on the street, and the speeding, created a safety concern. Mr. Eshragi said he would check into it.

**HARBOR SHORES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; DOROTHY ROMANELLI**

Chairman Shockley said Mrs. Romanelli couldn't attend. He said that the neighborhood is in good shape and Mr. Eshragi is keeping up with things regarding the neighborhood.

**MEADOW STREET; MORAVIA LANGLEY**

Ms. Langley asked about the speeding signs. The Fed Ex trucks and cars continue to speed, and there are a lot of children in the neighborhood that cross the street. Mayor Moccia suggested recording the license plate number if possible. She suggested putting up some crime watch signs. Chairman Shockley said the city does provide the signs, but the neighborhood association can purchase them for about \$35.00 each. She also suggested that more signs be put up in the park, saying that the park closes at dusk. This would be in an effort to prevent loitering. Chairman Shockley said it would be a safe practice to encourage the neighborhood children to cross at the crosswalk, and he suggested that they bring that up at the resident meeting. Mayor Moccia said he and Chief Rilling are in the process of setting up a meeting with Fed Ex and other truck companies about the situation. Deputy Chief Palmer said he will have the speed trailer there next week. Mr. Eshragi said he will install the counter there, at different times from the speed trailer. Mr. Alvord said he received information from Mr. Schulman at the transit district regarding a small grant program that they will apply for. The grant will specifically study truck traffic, alternate routes, etc. Mayor Moccia said they are trying to work with SWRPA to do a study through the DOT about the truck traffic on Rte 136. In the meantime, they will continue to use enforcement.

**BROAD RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; KELLY STRANITI**

Chairman Shockley said Ms. Straniti couldn't attend. He said that Wendy's has hired a security firm to handle the noise and the hangout issue. They are still working with them on the buffer zone.

**WEST MAIN STREET; CHRISTINE ABRAHAM**

Chairman Shockley said Ms. Abraham couldn't attend. The refrigerator that had been mentioned at last month's meeting has been removed. The bricks were left on the sidewalk as a result of the repairs the water company did. Mr. Alvord said he will take care of this with the water company. There are sneakers on the wires on School Street. The neighborhood association had a meeting at Ash Creek Saloon with the developer of the proposed project, and the plans were reviewed. Mayor Moccia commented that the plans have a historical look, and that will make a nice appearance on the street and will fit in the neighborhood. The new lights planned for the street are old-fashioned looking, in keeping with the historical look. The parking will be underneath the building which will eliminate on-street parking. Ms. Grant said she received a call from the Norwalk Preservation Trust, and they were pleased with the plans. She said the proposed project still has to go through the Zoning Board of Appeals, and she encouraged everyone to attend that meeting. The developer has shown an interest contributing to the park. Chairman Shockley said the spring cleanup date for West Main Street has been tentatively set up for Saturday, April 29, 2006.

**SPRING HILL/HOSPITAL AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; AL RAYMOND**

Ms. Paladino said their major campaign is focused on speeding in the neighborhood. They have scheduled a meeting with the Traffic Department and DPW in April. Purdue Frederick has a lot of activity going on in the

parking lot. Mayor Moccia said Chief Rilling is handling what appears to be drug-related activity on Clinton Avenue. She said they are keeping an eye on the three homes on Stuart Avenue to make sure they remain the

### **WILTON AVENUE; MARK PIERCE**

Chairman Shockley said that Mr. Pierce couldn't attend. The neighborhood is in good shape.

### **SOUTH MAIN STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; ERNEST DUMAS**

Chairman Shockley said that Mr. Dumas couldn't attend. He said that in addition to the issues he mentioned last month's meeting, he is concerned about the lighting from Concord Street to Meadow Street. The lights that do work are dim, and some lights are completely out. He confirmed with Mr. Alvord that this is something that needs to be approached with SNEW.

### **LEXINGTON AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; RAPHAEL DEGROS**

Chairman Shockley said Mr. Degros couldn't attend. He said that everyone is continuing to work on a number of issues. Mayor Moccia said that one of the concerns is speeding school buses. They looked into the problem and as the street is very narrow, it is a matter of perception that the buses are speeding. They are not going 30-40 mph, but rather 18-25 mph.

### **TREE ALLIANCE; DON NELSON**

Mr. Nelson said they are switching over to a neighborhood approach on the tree planting. They have had some nice responses. The Golden Hill Association has come up with a neighborhood approach. At last night's Tree Advisory Committee meeting, Ms. Pam Garrett of Harbor Shores put together a terrific presentation. The idea of working with the neighborhood style is to have a tree liaison within each neighborhood who would identify the bare spots. They would then develop a plan and complete that neighborhood in one effort, instead of going after individual trees. He said they had a meeting with Brookside School regarding the Arbor Day celebration on April 28, 2006 at 1:45 p.m. He will meet with Mayor Moccia to review the program. The teachers and the students, and the tree contractor, are all working together for the event.

Chairman Shockley said that at the last meeting, Ms. Berardino spoke of speeding cars in the Lowe Street neighborhood. That issue continues to be worked on. There were some zoning concerns with some of the apartments, and those concerns continue to be worked on. Mr. Alvord said that Lowe Street will be paved before the end of June. They will implement some improvements to the street when they do the paving.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Becker said that the next meeting of the Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhoods Association (CNNA) will be on Monday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. in Room A300. She invited everyone to attend, as the issues they discuss are common to Norwalk residents.

Ms. Leigh Grant of the Silvermine Community Association (SCA) said that on February 2, they signed a contract to put in a National Historic District that would include properties in the core district from New Canaan.

to the Silvermine Tavern, and including two in Wilton. She went for a walk with the Kent Hills Road resident of Wilton to review the power line issues. The poles have been moved for the proposed electrification area on the Danbury line. She then reviewed the Silvermine area to see if those poles had been moved. They would like to try and get the poles moved farther away from the neighbors. She mentioned that the Silvermine Community Association is having wrought iron signs made up that say "This is Silvermine". She asked if the DPW can help to put them in. Mr. Alvord said he would be happy to work with them on that. They have a sign installation truck, and they need to be sure that the sight lines are okay. She said that the houses on Silvermine Avenue are very close to the lights, and the lights are bright. The bright lights also affect the wildlife that live near the river. She asked if they could turn the lights off at night, therefore saving the city money on electricity, or just dimming the lights. Mr. Alvord said it is a CL&P issue, and it should go before the Traffic Authority.

Ms. Donna Widhimer of Richards Avenue said that she is concerned about the safety of the children that take the buses that go along Richards Avenue, as well as the safety of the students that attend Norwalk Community College. There are no sidewalks for the students to use when they come off the bus. The area in question is near Wal-Mart and the Trans-Lux property. This is private property, so it would be difficult to put in the sidewalks. It was suggested that the community reach out to Costco and Trans-Lux to see if they could work together on putting in sidewalks. It was also suggested that the community speak with Dr. Levinson at Norwalk Community College to have the students involved.

Ms. Gloria Seymour is in the process of forming a neighborhood association for the Adams Avenue area. The concerns are speeding, litter, houses in ill repair, and people that don't pick up after their dogs. Chairman Shockley thanked her and said they will work on the issues.

Fire Marshal Iannaccone said that he has battery-powered smoke detectors for one and two family homes. He suggested that they mention this at their neighborhood association meetings. They are provided free of charge and people can contact him at his office if they would like one.

### **ADJOURN MEETING**

**\*\* MR. SHOCKLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr  
Telesco Secretarial Services