

**CITY OF NORWALK  
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 7, 2008**

**ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Richard A. Moccia; David Shockley, Redevelopment Agency Marilyn Maitland, Health Department; Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill Association, Donnie Sellers, Lexington Avenue Association; Christine Abraham, West Main Street N.A.; Julie Burton, CNNA; Marcia Powell, Village Creek Homeowners Association; Leigh Grant, N.A.S.H.; John Lomba, Fire Department; Marybeth Becker, Lee Bernardino, Lowe Street; Al Raymond, Lt. Paul Resnick, Police Department; Maribeth Becker, Wall Street N.A.; Helen Bryan, West Main Street N.A.; Kathryn Mochella, Marta Rivera, D.P.W; Lindsay McCurran, Planning and Zoning

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**WELCOMING REMARKS AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**\*\* MS. GRIFFING. MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2, 2008 MEETING.**

**\*\* MS. BURTON SECONDED.**

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

Ms. Blair said that there were bumper stickers for recycling and pencils available to the group.

Ms. Rivera, a new bilingual DPW Customer Representative, who formerly worked with Redevelopment, was introduced.

Mr. Shockley asked about the pick up schedule. Ms. Blair said that it was going well and that if someone calls in about yard waste, they are mailed the schedule.

Ms. Becker asked about the new recycling procedure. Recycling bins are now available for Recycling #3-9 at the transfer station. Newspaper, paper and paperboard can now be mixed together and stored in paper bags.

Ms. Powell said that she had been putting plant containers in the bin that were marked #1 or #2 and that the recycling pickup person had said that they were not accepted by the recycling center. This will be looked into. It was also commented that the caps on soda and water bottles need to be off.

Mayor Moccia said that there was the Tree Festival had been held at Shady Beach, the White Barn clean up took place and the Fodor Farm gardening project has started. The

Mayor said that he was pleased with the level of interest that has been generated by the public.

Ms. Bernandino asked what would happen with the highest elevation at Fodor Farm. Mayor Moccia said that he was not sure about the plans for that section.

Mr. Shockley thanked everyone that was involved with Keep Norwalk Clean program. He then passed around a photograph of the Silvermine clean up, which showed a large pile of tires, and bags of garbage that was removed from the area. Ms. Becker said that her clean up at the White Barn went well and there was a good turn out.

Ms. Becker said that on Saturday, May 31st, there would be clean up of the Wall Street Area.

Mr. Shockley then reviewed the upcoming clean up with the group. Mr. Shockley then passed around photos of the Norwalk based Builders Without Borders, putting up a six foot stockade fence for a senior who is legally blind and disabled.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVES**

Ms. Abraham said that two dumpsters had been brought into the Summer Street project. By Saturday at 5 p.m., one of the large dumpsters was filled to capacity. Mr. Shockley said that the developer wanted to work with the neighbors. Ms. Abraham was quite pleased.

Mr. Raymond said that his area clean up had been held on Bulky Waste Day and had collected over 40 bags of garbage. He added that the staff of the stores by the Spring Hill/Hospital Adopt-A-Spot now are helping with the upkeep. Mr. Raymond also commented that he was quite pleased that Stuart Avenue had been repaved.

Mayor Moccia said that the article in the paper that said he did not have a plan for traffic management was incorrect. He said that there was not an OVERALL traffic plan because of the various needs of the different areas. Strawberry Avenue has three schools on it, while Silvermine Avenue has different situation. Each area has to be evaluated differently. He added that the recent accident on Bartlett Avenue was an unfortunate situation.

Speed bumps are not the answer because they just redirect the traffic, they are difficult to plow and slow down emergency vehicles. Studies from across the nation and Europe support that. The Mayor said that the police try to enforce as much as possible, but if there is a call in that area, the officer who is assigned to monitor speeding is required to answer the call.

Mr. Raymond said that there had been an increase in crime and Chief Rilling indicated that there were more patrols. Mayor Moccia said that there had been three more officers in the budget. However, it takes about 36 weeks between the Academy and the field work to completely train the officers. Currently, there are about 18 officers involved in some phase of the training program. Lt. Resnick said that the Academy training and the full program is very, very value to give the new officers a good grounding and foundation

before the officers patrol on their own. The new officers ride with an officer that is Field Training Officer. Mr. Sellers said that having auxiliary police might help. Mr. Sellers pointed out that the Police Department has been and will continue to be short handed and that crime will continue. Mayor Moccia said that there are union issues and liability issues. Lt. Resnick said that with the auxiliary officers need to be trained to the same level as the regular officers. Mr. Sellers said that he originally had come on to the force; he came on as an auxiliary. A discussion about the details of this and the New York auxiliary police department followed.

Ms. Grant suggested that speed cameras be used. Lt. Resnick said that speed camera has not been accepted by the State of Connecticut, but a test program is being used in eastern Connecticut on I-95. He said that the speed trailer displays the speed of the vehicle. He said that the more effective measures would be to have an officer handing out tickets or using the speed trailer.

Mayor Moccia said that there was a new grant that would be used for sensors that would monitor sound for gunshots. The sensors can differentiate between backfires, gunshots and firecrackers. The sensors can also distinguish between the different calibers of ammo. If the City can't get the extra officers, it might be able to get the technology from the governor.

Ms. Powell said that she wanted to thank the Fire Department and the Marine Police because two weeks ago, there was a fire on Hoyt Island. Ms. Powell said that both the Fire Department and the Marine Police responded promptly.

Ms. Griffing said that Golden Hill had expanded the area to include Garner Street. It has been noticed that is a problem near the construction site with food garbage. This is a concern because of the possibility of rats, which was a problem a few years ago.

Mayor Moccia said that Walgreens had not complied with the window design and been issued a cease and desist.

Ms. Griffing said that the grassy area has not been cut at Ben Franklin parking lot for some time and an increase in dog droppings that are being left.

Ms. Griffing also reiterated that the people are still not stopping at the corner of Hillside and Bayview that she mentioned before. She said that there needed to be a sign at the top of the hill to warn people about the stop sign.

Ms. Burton said that the next CNNA meeting would be on the 19th at 7:30 p.m. in Room 231.

Ms. Becker said that there would be Wall St Festival on June 7th from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mr. Clark and his band will be there to provide some music. Other groups like the Preservation Trust will have tables.

On May 17th, the Preservation Trust will be having a Gala event at the Lockwood Mathews Mansion. For more details, contact Tod Bryant.

On May 14th, the Police will be at the ENNA meeting in Room 333. The White Barn property will be dedicated at 3 p.m. on May 10th.

Mr. Raymond asked whether there were signs regarding dog droppings. Mr. Raymond then asked if there was a way to paint fire hydrants. Mr. Lomba and Mr. Shockley said that would discuss this later.

Mayor Moccia said that traffic control boxes by the library will be painted by local students in different designs and covered with a clear coating.

Mr. Raymond asked when the repaved roads would be striped. Ms. Blair explained that the crew would do all the streets at one time rather than as each road is paved.

Mr. Sellers said that Lexington Avenue was taking care of the problems as they occur. He said that the Police Department and the Health Department have helped with the various situations.

Ms. Becker said that the Arts Commission would be unveiling the Art Walk on Friday, May 30th at a Norwalk gallery.

Mr. Sellers asked about if the garbage cans would be given to the residents like Stamford had. Mayor Moccia said that Stamford had a policy where the garbage collectors went on the property to retrieve the cans. When that policy changed, the City provided all the residents with garbage cans.

Ms. Maitland announced that the Horton Street and Wilton Avenue issues had been resolved.

Ms. Abraham asked if street sweeping was being done on Sundays. She said that School Street needed it and that the street was empty on Sunday mornings. Ms. Blair said that the sweeping schedule had just started.

Ms. Bernandino asked about filing complaints with the garbage cans that attract animals. A brief discussion followed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services