

CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

ATTENDANCE: David Shockley, Chairman; Christine Abraham, West Main Street N.A.; Hal Alvord, DPW Director; Maribeth Becker CNNA; Jim Clark, Golden Hill Association; Mayor Richard A. Moccia; Leigh Grant, NASH; Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill Association; John Lomba, Fire Department; Laurel Lindstrom, ENNA; Don Nelson, Norwalk Tree Alliance; Marion Hood, Planning and Zoning; Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital N.A, Marsha Powell, Village Creek, Marilyn Maitland, Health Department; Michael Mocciae, Recreation and Parks; Mark Pierce, Helen Bryan, Donnie Sellers, Jim DelGrecco, Golden Hill Association; and Gordon Sweeney.

STAFF: Michelle Boccanfuso, DPW Customer Service

CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOMING REMARKS; REVIEW AND APPROVE JULY 11, 2007 MINUTES

Mr. Shockley welcomed everyone and then distributed copies of the July minutes to those who had not seen them.

- ** MR. RAYMOND MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 11, 2007 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
- ** MRS. GRIFFING SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CUSTOMER SERVICE UPDATE

Ms. Boccanfuso distributed copies for the upcoming Open House at the Public Works Center at 15 South Smith Street and the Bulky Waste Schedule.

Ms. Boccanfuso announced that the yard waste collection will be during the week of September 10th.

There were several questions about the types of items that would be accepted on Bulky Waste Day. Mr. Alvord requested that if freezers or refrigerators were put out for Bulky Waste Day, the doors must be detached for safety reasons.

Mr. Sellers said that he makes frequent trips to the dump with his truck and that he will be trying to educate his neighbors about the garbage ordinance. He said that if the neighbors are not cooperative, he will speak to the landlords about the issue. There is a lot of garbage all over the street. Mr. Alvord encouraged the neighborhood associations to inform their participants to use lidded containers.

Mr. Shockley announced that the Fire Department is having an open house on October 7, 2007, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Central Fire House.

Mr. Raymond commented that open garbage cans were a problem, but there are uncovered trucks go by and the garbage blows off. He also pointed out that the Oyster Festival was scheduled for this week and the thruway exits are very shoddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Staff

Public Works Open House, Saturday September 29, 2007

This was covered earlier in the meeting.

"Make A Difference Day", Saturday, October 27, 2007

Mr. Shockley said that the Redevelopment Agency was looking to do something similar to "Keep Norwalk Beautiful and that this would be done in the fall. "Make A Difference Day" would be an invitation for neighbors to help neighbors. There are two aspects to this program; one through the Human Services Council and the other would be to submit the names of elderly residents who need assistance. He then directed everyone to check the website listed on the agenda for additional information.

Mr. Nelson announced that the Norwalk Tree Alliance would be hosting a reception on September 27, 2007 at the Doubletree Inn from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served and Mr. Alvord will be giving a presentation on volunteer opportunities.

Mr. Shockley said that Briggs High School was starting up a City Scan program. He asked those who have trash and graffiti in their neighborhoods to contact him about this.

Mr. Shockley said that City Year, a component of AmeriCorp, coming on September 27th for a large community service project. The Nathan Ely School play area, where the Head Start program is located will be the focus.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

Ms. Becker said that at the CNNA meeting, several people had expressed concerns about what had happened with the demolition of the historic building on East Avenue and how CNNA could help prevent this happening again. Mayor Moccia said that the building was gone and the owner broke a promise, but not a law. The Mayor also pointed out the owner would be going back to the Zoning Department for future permits.

Ms. Grant asked if there was a possibility of putting teeth in the ordinance. She also mentioned that a number of areas were looking at creating village districts in their neighborhoods and something like this did not argue well for having a village district, which would protect something like this from happening. She then suggested that the City consider a stronger ordinance or that it might be good to go to the legislature about this. The Mayor said that he did not have any problem with either course of action. He said that he was not sure if the building was within the Village District, but the owner had made a promise and the approvals were based on that. A discussion then followed about the zoning ordinances and how to apply the fines.

Mr. Sweeney said that there was a parking issue on Garner Street and Overlook because of the construction of Walgreens at the corner of Garner and West. People that park on

the north side of Garner Street will be displaced. Mr. Sweeney said that the issue had been resolved by the promise of "No Parking Signs".

Mr. Pierce said that he had seen the traffic cones in the crosswalks on Washington Street and asked if he could get some for Wilton Avenue. Mr. Alvord said that the cones are expensive and that they are often removed. The merchants have been very good about finding the cones and putting them back where they belong. Mr. Alvord then added that Wilton Avenue would be receiving some attention. The City will be putting in curbs and sidewalks in order to narrow the street.

Mr. Pierce also said that Yankee Gas had cracked some of the sidewalks in his area. Mr. Alvord asked Mr. Pierce to contact Customer Service about this because the City had open permits with the gas company and that the City can require the gas company to repair the damage.

Ms. Abraham said that the overgrown area at the Summer Street project needs to be addressed. Mayor Moccia said that he would call the developer and request that something be done about the overgrowth. Ms. Maitland said that she would write up a report about this, also.

Ms. Grant asked about the foliage that overhangs the sidewalk near Jefferson School at Van Buren and Spring Hill. Mr. Alvord said that this would be inspected and corrected.

Ms. Maitland said that she would like to thank DPW for clearing away the brush at Farm Creek. She asked if signs could be posted where there is no parking. The Mayor said that signs had often been cut off a few inches above the ground.

Ms. Lindstrom then said that the Adopt-A-Spots located at the entry ways were improving. Mr. Alvord said that the litter was a major problem and that neighborhood resources were vital to the issue. Mr. Alvord also said that the State has an Adopt-A-Spot program, but it was not being utilized by the State. Mayor Moccia commented that he has often seen people throwing food wrappers and other garbage from cars.

Mr. DelGrecco said that he was very pleased with the new garbage units and had several suggestions for more units. There was a brief discussion regarding this. Mr. DelGrecco asked if there was a way to fine those who ignore the trash laws. Mr. Alvord said that there was and that fines had been issued now for about six weeks.

Ms. Griffing asked whether the City had any control over the dumpsters located across from Ben Franklin. Ms. Maitland suggested that she call the Health Department if the dumpsters are on private property.

Ms. Lindstrom asked if any progress had been made regarding the work for lower East Avenue. Mr. Alvord said that a meeting was scheduled for September 20th. Ms. Lindstrom then asked what plans had been made for festival control measures. Mr. Moccia said that the general standards would be enforced.

Mr. DelGrecco has several questions about various positions that were up for election, such as sheriff. Mayor Moccia briefly reviewed those positions and their duties with him.

Mr. DelGrecco then announced that there would be a Golden Hill Association Picnic on September 22, 2007 at 41 Elmwood Avenue from 12 o'clock to 3 o'clock.

Ms. Becker said that the Coalition meetings had been moved to the fourth Mondays of the month and that the next one would be on September 24th at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall.

Ms. Grant asked if there was a date for the bridge work to start. Mr. Alvord explained that the contractor has 120 days to complete the job, but that currently, the contractor is finishing a job in New Britain. Mr. Alvord said that he would prefer the contractor finish that job first so that his attention will be focused on the Silvermine bridge. He also said that he believes that the work will start in the next week or so.

Mayor Moccia thanked Mr. Shockley for the bottle of graffiti remover that Mr. Shockley gave him. He also said that Mr. Shockley has a form for those who would like the City to supply them with graffiti remover, gloves, rags and trash bags.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or discussions, Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services