

**EAST NORWALK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**March 9, 2005
Minutes**

Board Member Attendees: Laurel Lindstrom, Maribeth Becker, Marija Bryant, Erik Nees, Gordon Tully.

Guests: Joe Gaita (resident), Tony D'Andrea (business owner; arrives 8:30), Liz Ayn (resident), Alice Albertson (resident)

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm

1. Issues Raised by Guests

- a. Liz Ayn raised a number of problems in the Norden area:
 - i. Businesses seem to be proliferating over the years in residential areas.
 - ii. One in particular on Triangle Street involves large dump trucks; also on Hermann Court.
 - iii. She is concerned that the original grandfathered businesses folded, but new owners reinstated businesses without permits.
- b. Alice Albertson noted similar issues:
 - i. Someone is selling a car on Norden Place. He periodically moves the car; it has been for sale for a long time.
 - ii. There are 18 wheelers parked overnight on the railroad bridge (different ones), and three long-abandoned cars at the beginning of the housing.
- c. Laurel Lindstrom and several Board members suggested:
 - i. reporting use violations to the Zoning Department who will check the property and issue a Cease and Desist Order if there is no permit.
 - ii. contact the DPW, especially their new hot line which is planned as a city-wide service
 - iii. contact CityScan, who collect violations from one area and submits them as a package, which increases the efficiency of response.
 - iv. for automobile violations, call the Police Department.
- d. Joe Gaita states that speeding by trucks using Edlie Avenue as a cut-through is a danger in the neighborhood. Trucks use Edlie Avenue in attempt to short cut between Ft. Point and St. John Street. Often try to turn around and chew up the sidewalk.
 - i. Laurel and the Board recommend contacting the District C rep, Kevin Poruban.
- e. Laurel said that she should be copied on any complaints made, so she could follow up on them. ENNA tracking and reminders help encourage action.

2. Board Meeting commences after guest issues are addressed. Guests are welcome to stay and participate as they wish.

3. ENNA Board Agenda items

- a. Acceptance of minutes
 - i. Previously approved (February) corrected November and December minutes are submitted by Gordon Tully.
 - ii. February minutes are submitted for approval. The minutes are approved by unanimous voice vote with the following correction:
 1. Delete email address of all contacts..
 - iii. March minutes are submitted for approval. The minutes are approved by unanimous voice vote with the following correction:
 1. Delete names of suggested potential street reps, members, and treasurer's assistant because they have not yet been contacted.
- b. Non-board meetings to conduct ENNA business
 - i. Discussions about what to call the meeting. The purpose of having two meetings is to allow for public participation at the regularly scheduled board meetings and to conduct the detailed administrative work in ad hoc meetings held during the month as required

- by projects that are in process. The second meeting is a “committee-type” meeting that is attended by available board members.
- ii. Minutes of all meetings – regularly scheduled board meetings and ad hoc meetings – could be posted on the website and available to the public. No vote taken by Board.
- iii. Laurel outlines the purpose of the ad hoc meetings to track programs and projects as well as to discuss potential projects.
- iv. Second meeting to be called: Projects and Programs Meetings
- c. Officers of ENNA: Treasurer
 - i. Due to the resignation of Marie DeLeo as Treasurer, Gordon Tully is nominated to fill the office. Erik Nees nominates; Maribeth Becker seconds.
 - ii. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
 - iii. Gordon Tully is named the treasurer of the ENNA
- d. Officers of ENNA: Secretary
 - i. Due to the Gordon assuming the role of Treasurer, he is no longer able to fulfill the duties of Secretary.
 - ii. Maribeth Becker nominates Marija Bryant for Secretary; Erik Nees seconds.
 - iii. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
 - iv. Marija Bryant is named secretary for the ENNA.
- e. President’s report (attached)
 - i. Upcoming meetings report (attached)
- f. Treasurer’s report
 - i. Gordon notes that he has successfully downloaded QuickBooks from Marie. Everything looks in very good order and he is ready to start on it.
 - ii. Bank statements come to Laurel; she will make copies for Gordon to help ensure an effective division of labor
- g. April 30th Citywide Clean-up
 - i. Maribeth Becker responsible for getting street reps up to speed for the April 30th Citywide cleanup.
 - ii. Smaller scale neighborhood cleanups will follow throughout the years, sponsored by ENNA.
 - iii. Will request neighborhood street reps to identify local “hot spots “ needing attention during the April 30th citywide event.
 - iv. Gloves and trash bags will be provided to people who have volunteered to clean up in their neighborhoods.
 - v. Possible central drop off points for trash: Fitch Park, Andrews Park, Vets Park. Specific locations TBD by city. Garbage and small trash only; no appliances or large items. Criteria for pick-up TBD.
 - vi. Current flyer prepared by DPW is discussed and comments will be forwarded by Laurel to appropriate people.
 - vii. Suggestion is made (by Tony D’Andrea) to tap into the Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts for volunteer help; also environmental groups; church groups. Opportunity for good publicity.
 - 1. Fred Bondi and Kevin Poruban are on the city committees; will be contacting the athletic organizations that they coach/ are involved with.
 - viii. Maribeth emphasizes the need for good organization to avoid the possibility of chaos or people not knowing what to do. Suggestion is to have street reps get together and plan how to handle the clean up.
 - ix. To help with the coordination, Maribeth requests a map of the ENNA area to gain a clearer picture of street locations. Suggestion made to contact Mike Yeosock in DPW for help on obtaining maps.
 - x. As people are out doing clean-up, request to identify fire hydrants that need painting also.
- h. Development Issues
 - i. Comment that people are often thinking that the “condo-ization” along the river was a lapse in oversight by neighborhood groups. Not so...but can’t do anything about the

ones approved but can look ahead to what's on the horizon and get ahead of the development curve.

- ii. Future meetings on development plans:
 - 1. Pepperidge Farm CT Avenue site development – Plan Review committees meets March 11 at 7:30
 - 2. Wall Street plan. Michael DiScala is in the plan review stage and wants to build a 6 story condo at the head of the harbor. ENNA will need to stay informed as plans progress. Laurel said that she will contact Mr. DiScala to invite him to attend our next regular board meeting to present his plans for Wall Street and for the former Gibbs College site on East Avenue.
 - 3. Gordon comments that the plan for the Wall Street area is too big with parking on first two levels; no opportunity for pedestrian interaction on ground floors; does not reflect the best thinking in terms of urban viability of the area.
 - 4. Tony D'Andrea comments on Mid-Harbor plan, having just come from the meeting on that issue.
 - a. From residential perspective, he thinks the plan is good but not from a small business perspective. Will be hard to keep small businesses in town because of the emphasis on residential and the diminishment of the opportunity for small businesses to remain an integral part of the development area.
 - b. Comment on harbor dredging and the Federal money to complete it. If the water based uses (e.g. Devine, O&G, etc.) move out of town, the city can no longer lay any claim to the need for dredging or the Federal money linked to it.
 - c. Comment also on the view of commercial fisherman that the current Mid-Harbor Plan focuses on the "Disneyfication" of Norwalk; seems to devalue the need to keep small business/ commercial fishing in the area.
 - 5. Gordon Tully shares his viewpoint on Mike DiScala's plan for the currently vacant Gibbs college building on East Avenue. Plan is for condos on the river but maintains view corridors as well as the current low height of the existing building.
 - 6. Norden Place. Comment from guest that Spinnaker promised to make Howard Avenue one way and that has not happened. Potential for traffic problems still exists, especially with new uses going in.
- i. Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee Action (full report attached)
 - 1. Connie Blair, DPW, is the person to call regarding neighborhood QOL issues. She will take the call, contact the right people to remedy, and track that corrective action is taken. Now paper-based but will be computerized.
- j. Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhood Associations (full report attached)
 - i. Draft of letter regarding West Avenue development plan was prepared thanking Stanley Seligson for attending the CNNA meeting, expressing appreciation for his openness, and listing the CNNA concerns about the project. Draft will be circulated to all members of CNNA before sending to Seligson.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Next regular board meeting April 13th.

Respectfully submitted,
Marija Bryant. Secretary