

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 4, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: David Shockley, Redevelopment Agency; Mayor Richard A. Moccia; Christine Abrams, West Main Street N.A.; Hal Alvord, DPW Director; Helen Bryan, West Main Street N.A.; Leigh Grant, N.A.S.H. Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill Association; Glenn Iannaccone, Fire Department; Marilyn Maitland, Health Department; Frank Strauch, Planning and Zoning; Greg Oehley, Broad River; Don Nelson, Tree Alliance; Marcia Powell, Village Creek Homeowner Association; Mark Pierce, Wilton Avenue N.A.; Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital N.A.; Lt. Paul Resnick, Norwalk Police Department; Gordon Sweeny, Golden Hill Association; Nancy Whitmore, West Avenue N.A.; Diane Cece, Eastern Norwalk; Sgt. Joseph Johnson, MTA Police; Capt. James McKenna, MTA Police; Jackie Liljegren, Flax Hill Road Assoc.

STAFF: Connie Blair, Customer Service

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The Mayor welcomed Ms. Grant back to the group and announced that he had reappointed Ms. Grant to SWRPA. He then pointed out that the room had been dedicated to Bea Brown.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2009 MINUTES

**** MS. GRIFFING MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 4, 2009 MINUTES.
**MS. POWELL SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER UPDATE

Ms. Blair distributed copies of a list of where people can drop off car batteries and used motor oil. She said that the household batteries would go to the Transfer Station because Volk Station drop off area was now closed.

Ms. Blair said that the transfer station now has a bin for household electronics. She added that the yard waste site would be opened on Saturday after July 1st.

Ms. Abraham said that she had noticed that couches had been left on the on the sidewalks. Ms. Blair said that the City will contact the property owner, but when it becomes a serious issue, they will send someone out to evaluate the situation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor said that 95/7 agreement would be on the Council Agenda for March 24th. He added that the City was trying to maintain the services without raising the taxes. Revenues are off, but the City was fortunate was not to have anything invested with Madoff. He then reviewed that the investment income had decreased significantly but that the Finance Department was working hard to prevent layoffs.

City Staff

a. Keep Norwalk Beautiful update

Mr. Shockley then reviewed the volunteer clean ups and displayed the form. The current target date is April 25th for Keep Norwalk Beautiful. Mr. Shockley said that Keep Norwalk Beautiful was working on a closer tie with Keep America Beautiful. If the City moves to an Associate level, there are additional levels of analysis, such as litter analysis.

Captain McKenna and Sgt. Johnston from the MTA Police Department joined the meeting 10:20 a.m.

MetroNorth

Captain McKenna said that there have been problems with illegal dumping and littering with the properties adjoining the Danbury/Norwalk line. Sgt. Johnston recounted an incident that had happened the previous evening where an alert MTA officer has stopped a car that drove over a railroad crossing in a suspicious manner. This had resulted in the apprehension of at least one of the occupants of the vehicle who was wanted on a warrant.

Mr. Alvord stated that in two days MetroNorth had picked up 40 tons of trash from along the tracks. He said that starting at Science Road through Perry Avenue there had been a large increase in illegal dumping. The MetroNorth Track Department inspects the tracks regularly for large objects like refrigerators and such that would be a hazard to the trains.

The Mayor commented that MetroNorth works closely with the Norwalk Police regarding security at the South Norwalk Train Station.

Fire Marshal Iannaccone said that it would be critical that all the houses have the correct numbers with the proper size on the house. He also encouraged people to dig out any

buried fire hydrants. He also reminded everyone to change the clocks and the batteries in the smoke detectors when they reset their clock during the coming weekend.

Neighborhood Representatives

Ms. Griffing of Golden Hill thanked Mr. Shockley for having all the snow cleared from around the Ben Franklin school and around NEON. She said that there was a clean up for Golden Hill scheduled for April 4th.

One of the West Main N.A. representatives reported that there was graffiti on Fabric Care Cleaners at 3 Holmes Street building facing the Willie Moorer Playground and that it has been there since before the holidays. Mr. Shockley said that he would call and encourage the property owner to clean the building off.

On the Corner of West Main and Holmes Street, there was a brick border wall near a bus stop, which is falling down following a possible auto accident. Ms. Blair said that she would send a foreman out to look at

The shrubbery at 26 Main has been trimmed but the clippings from the trimming have been left lying on the ground. The sidewalk also remains unshoveled.

Ms. Abrams asked about the dogs that are not being cleaned up after. Mr. Shockley said that there was a City ordinance about this.

A stop sign on Summer Street has been knocked down. There is also a hangout area near Godfrey Street and Davenport.

Ms. Grant then announced that there had been asphalt patching that was done on River Road and the patching is deteriorating. Mr. Alvord explained that the thaw/freeze cycle is creating a huge problem and that there would be major repaving project undertaken this coming year.

Ms. Grant said that the Silvermine Tavern has closed and that the owners are still looking for a buyer.

Ms. Becker announced that the Wall Street area will be having a clean up on Saturday, May 9th. They will meet at Fat Cat Joe at 8:30 a.m. and head out by 9 a.m. She said that there was a stretch of tracks along Commerce Street southbound just past the Norwalk Electric Company that had a significant amount of illegal dumping. Officer McKenna said that he would take a ride by the area and check it out.

Brien McMahon High School will be having a clean up on April 25th and the school is looking for volunteers.

Ms. Cece of the Eastern Norwalk Association, she said that there had been a lack of enforcement for snow and ice removal from sidewalks. She added that general sidewalk and curb repair was also a problem. Mr. Alvord said that there was a form letter sent to property owners about snow removal and another letter about the sidewalk is crumbling. Mayor Moccia said that frequently the property owners are elderly or handicapped. Ms. Cece said that if locations were identified that have elderly and handicapped residents, maybe the neighborhood associations could help out.

Ms. Cece then asked about the yard debris site being closed on Saturdays. Mr. Alvord said that it costs \$2,500 each day for overtime to have the yard debris opened on Saturday and that the union contracts do not allow the City to shift the workweek.

Ms. Powell said that her area had sent in some requests for pothole repairs but nothing had been done. Mr. Alvord explained the problems with applying cold patch.

Ms. Powell said that Woodward Park had a problem with the pick up soccer games and that there are problems with parking and turf wear. She said that Recreation and Parks was working on it. The Mayor said that the police need to be called and they will ticket the cars illegally parked. He added that there had been similar problems at another parks. Discussion followed about how to address the issue.

Mr. Raymond said that Stuart Avenue was not in good repair. The developer applied for an extension but no one knew about it in advance. Mr. Alvord said that Yankee Gas was also involved. Mr. Raymond said that the developer had repaired the sidewalk in front of the new buildings, but he did not repair the portion of the sidewalks that he destroyed.

The Mayor left the meeting at 10:52 p.m.

Mr. Shockley introduced Mr. Oley from Broad River. Mr. Oley said that the new neighborhood association was in the process of forming in Broad River.

Mr. Pierce said that he had been contacted about the sign installation he had requested previously. He said that there was a problem with snow removal around Ash Creek Saloon. There is also a problem with people who do not shovel their sidewalks. Mr. Alvord said that during a snowstorm, the department does not have the staff to go out and inspect sidewalks, so the department relies on reports from residents. Ms. Cece said that complaints can be sent in online.

Mr. Pierce said that 28 Catherine Street had cardboard boxes packed underneath the front porch. Ms. Maitland said that the landlord had been contacted and the resident is one that has been known to create this type of issue. She said that she would take the resident to court if necessary.

Mr. Shockley said that the June meeting will be on recycling and CL&P will be presenting in May.

Ms. Liljegren asked whether there was a Flax Hill Neighborhood Association. She said that there was a site called “iNeighborhood” and they will give you a free website called “iNeighbor”. She then asked about how the Norwalk Transit Authority received its funding. Mr. Alvord said that one portion comes from federally funds and another portion comes from the fares that riders pay. The City only gives a small percentage of support. Mr. Alvord suggested that Ms. Liljegren speak to the Deputy Director if she had further questions about this.

Mr. Alvord said that there was a need for Tree Liaisons from various neighborhood associations.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services