

# WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF MEETING: February 13, 2008 West Harrison Fire House

**Board members present:** Lori Wilson, Gregg Rosenberg, Jeff LaGrotte, Mario Gallo, Angela Amodeo, Gerri Barbagallo. **Board members absent:** Lisa Faillace-Sciliano, Charlie Russo

**President Lori Wilson** welcomed all. The **minutes** of January **16, 2008** were approved.

**Treasury Report: Jeff LaGrotte** – Balance is \$14,400.00, has been stable with not much activity which is soon to change. The board approved our budget for 2008 at a board meeting. We need to raise approximately \$12,000 to maintain budget – counting on success from dues collection and dinner dance fundraiser primarily. Some of the things we wish to fund are: Tree lighting, heritage trail enhancements, memorial bell, Easter event, outdoor movie, youth initiative.

**President's Report: Lori** – Our board of directors met with Mayor Joan Walsh at her home to speak to us about how the community will move forward under her administration. She said she will be quick to respond to communications and gave us a status report on the various projects and issues that are ongoing for us here in West Harrison and for the whole town, which she will talk about tonight. She has agreed to meet with our board periodically. We are grateful for her cooperation and appreciate her time.

On January 31, we hosted a meeting about the Main St. drainage improvement project with 3 of our councilmen, our County Legislator, John Nonna, Linda Levine for Assemblyman Adam Bradley and residents of the area. Harrison has plans in place to improve the drainage in this flood prone area. It needs an easement through parkland and Mr. Nonna reported on partial county approval. It will now go to vote by the County Board of Legislators at the office building at 148 Matine Ave. in White Plains, on Feb. 19, at 11:30 – public can be present. John Nonna has expedited this process so that work can be started.

Linda Levine reported that the DOT appointed a new I287 project liaison and will work to keep communications ongoing with the DOT. Adam (Bradley) wants us to keep working with the county and keep pressure on the DOT to aid in the drainage problem on Main St. and area, and has called on Nita Lowey for federal money from the Corp of Engineers.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Building Community and Fundraising: Mario Gallo** –. Tickets are on sale for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner Dance and Silent Auction on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Antonee's, with full multi-course sit-down dinner, open bar, DJ, silent auction and journal. This is our one major fundraiser of the year. We need donations of new items, gift baskets, donated services or events to auction. And we need journal ads. Committee meets next on February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm.

**Senior Committee: Ro Verano - Waiting** to air some issues with new administration. Mayor Joan Walsh was a member of our committee that worked for improvements to the program. The new senior annex building has gone out to bid. We will meet on February 20<sup>th</sup> with recreation department reps to resolve issues and discuss the implementation of the new building. All can join us.

**Public Works /Traffic & Safety: Gerri Barbagallo** –. Chief Hall continues to monitor for speeding and overweight trucks. He will be our guest at the next meeting in March.

We are planning the presentation of a business beautification award this year.

**Membership & Communications: Angela Amodeo** – We had 207 members for 2007, and have 4 new members this year. Give us names of new residents so we can invite them to join. Tonight we will choose our "Member of the Month" from those attending. A name will be drawn from all current (dues-paid for 2007) members present and they will be presented with a gift purchased from a local merchant. Richard Swenson was our first member of the month in January.

**Next general meeting** is **March 26<sup>th</sup>** and will be held **at the Mintzer Center** (*not the firehouse*).

**Our Member of the Month for February** was chosen. **Rose Grossfopf** was presented with a valentine heart collection of chocolates purchased from Donahue's.

**Guest Presentation: Supervisor / Mayor Joan Walsh** – Met with Postal officials. She pushed the serious need in our community and has found someone who would build a post office and turn it over to us with the size and location okay, but the Postal officials were blunt that their study and the financial outlook of this location does not justify a post office here. They would use an area of an existing store to put in a postal service center and she will look into this. They also could send a truck service center a few days a week during the holidays. Will keep working for a small substation.

She met last week with code enforcement task force. There are 137 cases in the courts, with 83 waiting and 33 not being investigated yet. She has sympathy for home owners living there, but not with absentee landlords. Our 2 present judges will be more strict with violations. She would like to have a moratorium for 6 months, then make fines much higher. This will give homeowners time to become informed and to make adjustments. She has asked the town attorneys to look at enforcement processes in neighboring communities. There will be another round now of knocking on doors.

The Main St. flood abatement project is in the works. The town board passed a resolution asking the county for an easement through county property for this work. Nita Lowey's office has procured \$150,000.00 for this project. Street will be repaved at end, and curbing will be needed and may be a problem for residents' parking needs.

The Mintzer Center senior annex has gone out to bid, which are to be opened on March 13<sup>th</sup> and then around 90 days later should be ground breaking.

Streetscape – ConEdison will begin digging trenches in 3 weeks. Sidewalks will be 10 to 12 feet wide with no overhead wires.

The plans for the pool are ready. She does not approve of the size with racing lanes, but it will go ahead and should be ready in the spring of 2009. It will be a beautiful park. She believes it is too much money but the plans are too far ahead and she will not interfere. The design consultants are working on what will be in the new recreation building which will be another phase of the park project. There will be an indoor lap pool, basketball court, etc. There will be community meetings to discuss this. What about a children's center, senior center, library – decisions need to be made on what will be in this building.

Financing is more difficult in this day. Budgets in town house need to be scrutinized. Certificates are 1.6 million dollars. These are refunds to corporations for overtaxing. Extra funds will need to go to these one way or another.

She takes calls and requests on little issues and solves some of these each day for residents.

She is ordering building department to cut down the time it takes to procure a building permit, from 6-7 months to 1 month.

Citizen advisory task forces will be up and running by the end of the month.

(Floor – need more staffing for code enforcement duties: Joan – it's not going to happen.)

(Floor - traffic light is essential at new park entrance at Lake and Columbus: Joan – yes.)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Amodeo, Secretary