

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting: June 27, 2006 at the St. Anthony's School

Attendance: Total - 46 Board members present: Gregg Rosenberg, Angela Amodeo, Charles Russo, Mario Gallo, Fred Sciliano, Geri Barbagallo, Jeff LaGrotte. Board members absent: Lori Wilson, Lisa Faillace-Sciliano.

Fred Sciliano opened the meeting welcoming all and thanked Msgr. Eisler for the use of the school which was needed because of the unavailability of the Fire House and the Rec.

The **minutes of the last meeting of May 24, 2006** were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff LaGrotte – Balance is around \$13,000.00. We have been working hard on the IRS tax exempt status. They finally responded and we must resubmit the application and are working very hard to answer all questions. (The board has purchased the first phase of liability insurance.)

Membership: A few renewals still coming in.

Senior Committee: Ro Verano – The grandparents program with the day care center will start on Tuesdays in October. The town will pay for the TB tests for the seniors that volunteer. The seniors will be electing their board of directors in the fall as to our suggestion and encouragement. Their board will handle the business of their club and programs. The Harrison Report Weekly Newspaper will begin a weekly column reporting on the seniors activities reported by a senior reporter. We met with Rocco and sent out a survey for opinions and suggestions on the lunch program. The seniors will be able to run the program themselves now. This summer, the lunch program will be held at Preston School. Menus will be more varied in the fall. Nancy DeLeo will be working on this. We are looking into grant sources with Congresswoman Lowey's office for center building. Bradley's office is also advising on this. Joe Cannella has given go ahead for the senior committee to research this process. Joan Walsh will assist in writing some grants. We did research on modular buildings that could be used.

Planning & Zoning: Mary Malara - Questions have been sent to the school board and superintendent about garage building they will be constructing at the end of Harrison Ave. Looks like it is going in. There are questions of concern on the streetscape plan and a letter is being sent to the town planning board about zoning changes concerning town houses. They are making a master list of illegal apartment complaints. Everyone filing a complaint form should make a copy and send to Mary so that it can be added to the list. 682-7956. Complaints really have to be in writing to Ed DiBouno, calling is not the way to go.

Fred – Met with mayor a few weeks ago and let him know that credibility is suffering. The mayor said Ed is still working on it and raids will continue. But, Fred said, they don't seem to be doing enough. They need to step it up like they said they would. We have to keep the pressure up. They claim the issue of a manpower problem but nothing is being done about it.

Parks & Recreation: Charlie Russo – He met with Barbara Specht at the historical Society office, and with Rose Grosskopf. They talked of the committees goal of cleanup operations around the lake, to identify and evaluate and to clear historical trails, explore the educational value. They will look for grant money. It should all be an arm and enhancement of the new park. The town is waiting for a grant that was applied for a few years ago. He told the story of Lake Tonetta in Southeast where they placed hundreds of carp in the lake to help control the undergrowth of vegetation that is choking the lake (like ours). It took them 19 months to complete the process to do this. They hired a firm to test the water and

surroundings. They developed a 44 page application to the state to get authorization to do it. They spent about \$4500.00 for the carp and \$8000.00 to install a special fence and \$15,000.00 for the study. We can do this. Charlie made literature on a heritage trail available to the membership.

Fred – The town board meeting updated the streetscape plans after suggestions and concerns, many heard at our general meeting with the mayor and consultants. They are not going to close off Lake St. by Aquarios. It will remain a through street. They made a change in the park access but it will still be one way going in and out – still not completely settled.

Traffic & Safety: Geri – Harrison Police will continue to work with White Plains and the County to keep the homeless out of the woods. Traffic stops will continue, they are very worthwhile despite the inconvenience.

Floor – complaint about dangerous sidewalk on Underhill near Daniel.

Post Office: We will concentrate on getting a mobile post office truck. Other efforts have proved futile.

There are lots for sale at Underhill/Daniel/Columbus/Harrison. Plans still have to go before planning board.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 20, 2006, with Mayor Malfitano as our guest.

Fred introduced our guest speaker **State Assemblyman Adam Bradley** representing West Harrison.

Guest Speaker Presentation: NYS Assembly Adam Bradley

He complimented our association as a vibrant community organization. He had numerous meetings with the DOT officials on what they had proposed. They have now agreed not to close the Westchester Ave./Columbus/Underhill intersection. They will not put in the sound barriers as planned, but will re-evaluate it in 3 to 5 years when the Westchester Ave. work will be done. They promised to replace the dilapidated fence with a new one at Westchester Ave. behind Locust Ave. He is waiting for a letter from the directors at DOT to close the deal. He said this is an example of what happens when you come together as we did. He thanked his aide, Linda Levine for her efforts as our liaison. DOT was responsive to addressing the situation in a reasonable manner.

He gave a short background of himself including the fact that he lived in West Harrison for 6 years. This area usually is not heard from. Call him with concerns at his office, 686-7335.

He spoke of the ending of this legislature session with an agreement reached in favor of property tax credits in addition to Star benefits, most of \$500 and most seniors receiving \$800, in the form of income tax credits. There was a meaningful amount of debate with difficult negotiations.

He led a fight for senior learning housing on the SUNY Purchase campus. The college supported it and after a 3 year effort the state assembly rejected it in committee. He was disappointed and will keep pursuing it. Senior communities are on other state college campuses.

He spoke of the St. Agnes property that is being proposed as a full spectrum senior complex. The City of White Plains need to work it out. There is a start of recognition of needs such as this. We need more proposals that will fill all ranges of senior need and income.

Discussions with floor:

1. Parking fee at Suny Purchase where residents go to walk.
2. Seniors audit classes at Suny Purchase, highest percentage in state.
3. Lack of hospital emergency facilities. Be aware of new emergency facilities, private, at Westchester Medical Group on Westchester Ave., open to the public.
4. Possibility of noise wall issue coming up again.

5. Airport expansion – his resolution was that the state is against any expansion of Westchester County Airport. A lot of NYC assemblymen interested because of the watershed. A change in routes is now being proposed which will benefit this neighborhood, with the planes going west towards the Hudson River.
6. Voluntary curfew on corporate flights. Commercial curfew mandatory except for delayed flights. They can't schedule a landing after midnight – delayed flights can't be helped.

Fred: Told the membership to call or e-mail us if there are any concerns that we should be aware of – we will still be working over the summer.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Angela Amodeo, Secretary
 West Harrison Neighborhood Association

Attendance: Meeting of June 27, 2006

Total

John Vasta	Nancy DeLeo	Veronica Flanagan
Tony Verano	Rich Conrad	Rosemarie Verano
Joan Walsh	Ann Gaudenzi	Margaret Donahue
Al Gaudenzi	Eleanor Bettini	Mary Faillace
Bruce Winkelman	Marcia Pledger	JoAnn King
Maryann DiSimone	Rocco Marsico	Vince Roselli
Loiuse Roselli	Mary Ann Morasco	Michael Kennedy
Margaret Kennedy	Alice Montemarano	Al Fiorelli
Virginia Hobby	Christopher Cross	Ann Neville
M. Brunner	Mary Malara	Bill King
Linda Levine	Donna D'Alesandro	Rose Grosskopf
Chris Hughes	Gail Mellea	Elizabeth Winkelman
Christine Odorkiewicz	April Gilbert	Angela Amodeo
Jeff LaGrote	Fred Sciliano	Charlie Russo
Geri Barbagallo	Mario Gallo	Gregg Rosenberg
Adam Bradley		