

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING: March 26, 2008 West Harrison Fire House

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

President Lori Wilson opened the meeting and welcomed all and thanked members Mayor Joan Walsh and Councilman Fred Sciliano for being there too.

The **minutes** of February 13, 2008 were approved.

Lori reported an update from DOT liaison Greg Kisloff on the I287 reconstruction. There will be pile driving operations with multiple lane closures on the overnight shifts, Friday March 28, Saturday March 29, and Tuesday, April 1.

Committee Reports:

Building Community and Fundraising: Mario Gallo – 3rd Annual Dinner Dance and Silent Auction on April 12th at Antonee's. Tickets are \$65.00, same as last year. Journal ads due by April 1st. We are trying to raise funds to do good things and run this organization. (Lori described some auction items – Mayor for a Day, many creative items, fun – and we will be honoring our Grand Illuminator Jo Ann King.

Senior Committee: Your secretary read the notes of Ro Verano: The committee met on February 20th with Councilman Joe Cannella, Councilman Fred Sciliano, and Recreation Superintendent Ron Belmont. They reviewed the Monday/Tuesday hot lunch program which has been very successful with approximately 20 to 30 participants each week. Rocco was asked not to cancel a Monday/Tuesday lunch if a holiday event like a Thanksgiving or Christmas party is scheduled for that week. In the event that the lunch program is expanded to 5 days a week as hoped there will be a need to hire a part time person to assist. Ron Belmont will contact St. Anthony's to continue the West Harrison lunch program in the school's air-conditioned gym this summer as last summer. The exercise program will stop during the summer. The 2007 summer water aerobics program was very successful and they plan to continue it this summer. Fire drills were discussed as was instruction on how to use fire extinguishers. A suggestion was made that a CPR class be given for grandparents that may babysit grandchildren. Will look for those interested in a ceramics program – goal is to introduce a Friday hot lunch in conjunction with a ceramics class. Ron Belmont went over the final blueprint/plans for the new Mintzer Annex which is currently out to bid. The WHNA senior committee wants the town and Department of Recreation to be pro-active in initiating the hot lunch and activities/programs for the seniors 5 days a week once the new annex building is completed. The next committee meeting will be sometime in June.

Membership & Communications: Angela Amodeo – As of March 24th we have 133 members who have paid dues for 2008. Your annual membership dues are needed to run and support this organization. Member of the Month will be chosen tonight from all 2007/2008 paid members. Next month only those who have paid their dues for 2008 will be eligible for Member of the Month.

Mayor Joan Walsh gave us an update on town business: She met with Bob Wasp on the Main Street flooding abatement project that is almost ready to go, but no date yet. It has been determined that flooding waters come from both sewer and storm water mains. She asked those present what they thought of the possibility of making Main St. a dead end to stop the through traffic that includes many trucks. White Plains is not against it, although they will look into the legalities. Only 6 people raised their hands in favor of it.

A 6 foot cedar fence will be constructed to replace the old one behind Locust St. on Westchester Ave. It will go up before the next phase of the I287 reconstruction project.

Joan showed a large photo map of the next phase of the I287 reconstruction project and described it in some detail. The White Plains access will be restored at the foot of Columbus Ave. A 60% reduction in traffic at the White Plains Ave./Westchester Ave. traffic light will be achieved with relocated exit and entrance ramps. Westbound 287 will be a divided highway near our exits. Traffic problems will continue until the reconstruction projects are completed, but this will take a few years.

Streetscape – Verizon paid today – soon to go out to bid.

Senior center annex – bids came in at almost 2 million dollars – town can't afford that. Will go back to drawing board. Will cut costs in some ways. *(A lengthy discussion ensued, many urging it to be done right by putting out the necessary funds. Also discussed were the plans for the new recreation building at the park in the next phase of that project.)*

Filtration Plant – she has had meetings with the County urging them to partner with Westchester Joint and they are in favor of moving ahead with this but a final decision lies in Albany. If deadline is not met on this, the daily fine could amount to \$5 million a year.

Illegal housing – she is committed to getting rid of illegal apartments here and downtown, but is concerned about the elderly resident owners of these houses. The task force is going out and issuing summonses and they will continue to do so.

She discussed her initiative of working with the town attorneys to revise the law concerning the parking of trucks on residential properties. *(Many from floor unhappy with her suggested plans to possibly allow trucks in driveways. Many of these houses have more than 1 truck. Idling and gathering of laborers also an issue.)*

Next general meeting is **April 16th at 7:30** and will be held at the **firehouse**.

Member of the Month for March was chosen – **Mary Malara** – and she was presented with a packet of lottery tickets purchased at the Jottery in Taylor Square.

Special Guest Harrison Police Chief David Hall: He discussed original reason for truck laws – trucks take extra parking spaces away from residents. Summonses that are being issued now are being done by code enforcement, not the police department. The law has been ignored for many years except when reported by a resident. If residents want the law enforced they will do it upon a complaint. It has to be thought out thoroughly if all trucks are to be taken out of driveways and put out onto the street. Trucks can be parked on streets as long as they are not oversized. *(A lengthy discussion ensued on trucks in the neighborhoods, parking laws, commercial trucks on streets, overcrowding houses, parking.)* Anyone can park on a public street even non-residents. Laws could be made about overnight parking, but that will affect everyone including residents. A vehicle can be ticketed if not moved after 24 hours, but it has to be reported to the police for this to happen. The best way to eliminate parking problems in Silver Lake is to make one way streets. Was tried 10 or 12 years ago and it didn't fly. It works downtown. People in the affected areas were very unhappy at first but then it worked out well. A suggestion from the floor was to have the one side street parking on the side that has the least driveways and the Chief said he would check that out. He agreed to put radar on Buchout Rd. after a complaint from the floor of speeding and driving on the wrong side of the road.

A speed study and accident analysis was conducted on Lake St. by Barnes Lane and 4 or 5 summonses are issued a day. He will set up radar checks in an alternate area of Lake St.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Amodeo, Secretary