

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting: May 23, 2007 at the West Harrison Fire House

Attendance: Total - 45: Board members present: Fred Sciliano, Lisa Faillace-Sciliano, Lori Wilson, Gregg Rosenberg, Jeff LaGrotte, Charlie Russo, Mario Gallo, Gerri Barbagallo, Angela Amodeo.

President Fred Sciliano welcomed all and then read this statement: "Recently I have been nominated as a prospective candidate for town councilman on the republican ticket. I am not an official candidate at this time. In keeping with the ordinances that govern our non profit status and to maintain an organization of integrity I am relinquishing my presidential duties to our vice president Lori Wilson until the election is over. If I am not accepted as a candidate or lose the election I intend to resume my duties as president and would run for reelection. Thank you."

Vice President Lori Wilson took over the meeting.

The **minutes** of the last meeting of April 18th were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff - the dinner dance and auction netted \$8200. The 2007 budget was approved at a board of directors meeting.

Fundraising & Community Building: Mario Gallo – The picnic date has been changed from June to September 29th, 12:00 to 5:00 pm. All members current with their dues are free, non-members \$25.00, children 6-12, ½ price, and under 6 are free. Catered by Powell Barbecues. Will have some activities, ideas welcomed. We need volunteers to run this please.

Seniors Committee: Rosemarie Verano – Our committee met on May 9th with Joe Cannella and Rocco Troiano. Ceramics program started with 7 seniors. The lunch program will be moved to St. Anthony's School for the summer. Discussed a men's golf Fridays four-some or visit to a driving range. Discussed plan's for summer water aerobics class at the pool at the park in early evenings with instructor Dot DiBuono. Found out about a police program ongoing down town – officers visit seniors that are alone to check on them. We will institute it here. Will show an intergenerational DVD to the seniors to gain support for the new program with the day care center. The Harrison Report will do stories on seniors activities. We will attempt to implement more lunch days in the fall. At the meeting there was a lengthy discussion of the planned new senior building. It will be installed where the hockey rink is now and the rink will be moved to the park at some time in the future. Two more votes from the town council are needed to pass the project. It was decided to see if the seniors would sign a petition requesting the town board to expedite their decision on this issue.

Parks & Recreation: Charlie Russo – Local contractors came to May 16 meeting and pledged to help with the heritage trail cleanup project around the lake. On June 9th there will be a walk through to show people what they could do to help. They discussed signage and info booths. Ron has talked to an architect. Town workers will be doing some of the work.

Planning & Zoning: Mary Malara – She met with Ed DiBuono. He sent list of investigations (of illegal apartments) they have done. They are continuing even as of last night – coming along successfully. The need valid info to pursue cases. Last week the 1st court case was being tried. Word of mouth has gotten people to change ways little by little. Some reported may be legal – relative or other exception. She is getting a lot of abuse some unhappy residents, but feel it is good for the community and she is willing to take the abuse. Feel free to send complaints to her or other board

members. At the Planning Board meeting last night there was another public hearing on the Master Plan, now being called the Comprehensive Plan. Redrafting process still taking issues. There was a public hearing on a new commercial building to go on Purchase St. PEPA is suing against it and it is still open. The planned water treatment plant was discussed – attendees asked for an environmental impact statement. Westchester Water Works has been ordered to build the expensive water filtration plant immediately or face daily fines which would be paid by Harrison and Mamaroneck. The Villa's of Silver Lake was there for steep slope permits. Residents asked them to consider project density and parking issue. Not against development, only that those factors will adversely affect the surrounding neighborhood.

Public Works/Traffic & Safety: Gerri Barbagallo – Police check points setting up soon checking seat belt usage. *From the floor – town parking lot at Madison and Underhill is being used by trucks overnight.*

Youth Committee: Lori Wilson – First meeting will be held June 21st 7:30. We are concerned about teens and young twenties who need some where to go in the late evenings. Come with ideas or let me know what you think.

Membership & Communications: Jo King – We have 177 members for 2007 dues paying members. Please join and pay dues or renew your membership with dues. She presented the first edition of the West Harrison Neighborhood Association newsletter that was prepared by Jo King and Angela Amodeo.

The **next meeting** will be on **Thursday, June 21st** at 7:30, here at the firehouse. We hope to have the town Justices with us.

Guest presentation by Ron Belmont, Harrison Superintendent of Recreation: He brought along Rocco Troiano, senior's program director, and Kristin Ciafone, recreation director and summer camp director. He is always accessible, personally, through secretary, email, voicemail. He thanked the senior committee and Ro Verano for their hard work. The pool is opening Saturday – last season for this pool – just weekends until later in June. Park Roadway construction will begin in three weeks. The Wednesday summer concerts will feature a different young Harrison performer each week – the Harrison idol. We have been cleaning up the lake along the shore – wall is now visible. Sterile grass eating Carp will be put in the lake after proper process with the DEC – hopefully permits will be done by late summer. No fishing will be permitted anywhere around the lake. Fence has to be put in at the falls to contain the fish there. The DEC determines the number of fish. He met with the architect today and the plans for the senior annex at the Mintzer Center are going again primarily due to this organization. Web site is being activated. A monthly flyer goes out to the schools with all the sports and activities available. It is very exciting in town right now – we are doing more.

Rocco Troiano – Senior's Program Director: He directs both Harrison senior programs – approximately 475 members here and downtown – 200 in West Harrison from 60 to 90 years old and above. They pay \$24 per year until 90 and then it is free. The lunch programs (initiated by the WHNA senior committee) that are held two days here and two days downtown are averaging 30 – 35 at the Mintzer Center and going over very well with a movie one day and an exercise program the other day. Nancy DiLeo, a senior member, does the menu. Pilone's does the food. The lunch cost \$2.00 by for the senior and \$3.00 covered by the town. They have 39 trips each year – they went to the Westchester Broadway theatre today – and special programs each month either at West Harrison or downtown – like going to the Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club in May – it is just like a wedding. The trips could be day trips, overnights, weekends and cruises, 4 to 10 days - in September they are going to Myrtle Beach. They have Bingo once a week, blood pressure screenings and foot doctor

visits once a month. Harrison community services takes seniors on doctor's appointment all week if they are in the surrounding areas. He is proud of the program and is dedicated to the seniors.

Kristen Ciafone – Recreation Supervisor: Her daughter's T-ball team is sponsored by the West Harrison Neighborhood Association. She works at the Mintzer Rec and at the Park as per the season and directs Camp Seaside at Passidomo Park for the 11th summer. It is a great program, with teens-in-training counselors, senior counselors, specialists, and have increasingly more adult counselors. Last year there were 240 1st to 5th graders at the park and 100 6th to 8th graders at the Mintzer Rec summer program. They go on trips like Playland, bowling, Sportstime, Leapin' Lizards, miniature golf, lunch. Special events include camp carnival, camp lip-sync show, camp show on the green. Will again have security guard at top entrance after drop-offs to keep campers and staff safe. She described the numerous programs they have at the Mintzer Center for children throughout the fall, winter and spring seasons. At the center there are game tables, arcade games, gym area, TV, homework areas. They are open for older teens from 7 to 10:pm Friday and Saturday nights. She described the numerous sports programs that use our new field all year, children and adults, and how the outside teams coming in love it. The picnic shelters are always booked through labor day, with people beginning in January to reserve their dates. June 18th the pool will open every day. She teaches a babysitting course to 11 to 15 year olds – a 4 week program in October.

Ron – 45 camp counselors, with 20 adults now. The arrange a single entrance at the camp for safety. In September there will be a new event – a doggie swim. The first summer concert will be June 20th. The Empire State Games being held for the first time in Westchester need volunteers – end of July, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

Floor – can't walk on field for little kids football games – had to watch from the parking lot. Kristin – there was a problem with smokers which cannot be allowed on the new turf field – people got nasty. Floor – a lot of baseballs go into the lake. What about putting up a net at the lake side of the field. Ron – concern about a net marring the view of the lake and the price of a net would be a lot more than the lost balls. Floor – keep the pool open an hour later each evening.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Amodeo, Secretary