

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting: October 19, 2005, Mintzer Recreation Center

Attendance: Total 48. Board members present: Geri Barbagallo, Jeff LaGrotte, Lisa Faillace-Sciliano, Mario Gallo, Fred Sciliano, Lori Wilson, Gregg Rosenberg, Charlie Russo, Angela Amodeo.

Fred Sciliano opened the meeting and welcomed all. We are here at the Mintzer Center for the first time for the easier access with the elevator. We are still hoping for a chair lift to be installed soon at the firehouse.

The **Minutes** of the last meeting of September 22, 2005 were approved.

Jeff **LaGrotte** reported \$3700 in the treasury. Waiting to hear from the IRS on tax exempt status after all the paper work was submitted last month.

Post Office: Fred reported that things are going slow and steady, but a frustrating month dealing with the postal authorities. He read 2 letters received on the issue:

1. A letter to Fred from Nita Lowey thanking him for forwarding to her the petition regarding a new Post Office substation in West Harrison, and the call her office made to Carol Riccardi of the USPS requesting her to call Fred and send him the USPS specifications for a facility to be acceptable, and pledging to continue working with us on this matter.

2. A letter to Carol Riccardi, the US Postal Service Westchester District Manager, from Congresswomen Lowey's office, detailing the over- 600 signature petition from the residents of West Harrison forwarded by the WHNA, and chiding Ms. Riccardi for saying that she had not heard any complaints about the lack of a postal branch in West Harrison (which is an incredible statement), and asking her to send written specs necessary for the Postal Service facility to Fred as president of the West Harrison Neighborhood Association, and urging the USPS to seriously pursue a location for this facility.

He received a phone call from Carol Riccardi, after repeatedly trying to reach her, only after Nita Lowey's office contacted her to do it. He complained to her about not getting appropriate responses from her to our inquiries. She finally gave him some specs needed for a new facility such as 1000 sq. ft. area and handicap bathroom facilities (for employees).

After discussion it was decided to urge phone calls be made by everyone to Carol Riccardi, 697-7343. News 12 will be contacted and suggestion that we contact our state representatives.

Membership report: We now have 201 members which is outstanding. Your secretary urged all attending to become members. It is important to have a large dues paying, signed membership not only for the funds but more importantly for the respect it affords our organization. The membership drive letters will continue to go out until all residents of the area that we have info on are contacted.

Fund Raising: Mario Gallo reported on the IGTLIH celebration on Columbus Day. Our booth was a great success and we raised \$836. We sold cannolies and achieved important visibility.

Plans are going well for our April 1st, 1st Anniversary Dinner. It will be held at Annatone's on North Broadway, with an open bar, dancing, silent auction, and journal. Tickets will be \$60 each.

Fred thanked Mario and all who helped that day.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony: Gregg Rosenberg and your secretary - the tree lighting will be held at Taylor Square on Thursday, December 1 with a rain date of Saturday, December 3. We will be meeting with Commissioner Bob Wasp to plan the decorating of the tree and the installation of the electricity, etc. Pepsico is donating refreshments and we will be requesting other donations from area

businesses. Flyers and signs are being prepared. The Mayor will be present and the town board and department heads are all being sent invitations. Flyers will be distributed at the neighborhood schools.

Parks & Recreation: Charlie Russo reported that Donna D'Alesandro met with Ron Belmont. He said that the issue of the grant money for the lake cleanup is on their agenda and they hope to work with White Plains, but there is something else in the works. He will follow up with info on Grant money funding. The field work is going well and will be completed in December. The installed undersurface drainage got tested with the rainy weather and seems to be working well. The turf is coming soon.

A comment from the floor – The White Plains Mayor should get together with our mayor to discuss the lake problem. There was a smell too. The houses at the top behind the lake have septic systems (he says) that are leaking down causing the growth in the lake and the pollution.

Charlie announced that Ron Belmont will conduct a tour of the Passidomo field work on Saturday, October 22, at 10:30 to 11:00 for whomever shows up.

Planning and Zoning: Fred reported that Ed DiBouno is still working on the illegal housing even though the task force had been temporarily curtailed.

Seniors Committee: Rosemarie Verano – reported that after another meeting with Joe Cannella, Ron Belmont and Rocco, the once a week meal program that she and her committee developed is ready to start in about a month.

If transportation to Stop and Shop is wanted, call Flo D'Imperia at the town house.

Floor Discussion: Residents complained about 13 cars on Daniel St. with Florida plates for many days from the nearby body shop. They are using Daniel St. as a personal parking lot. They have complained to the police department and nothing has been done. Chief Hall had promised us action when such complaints were made. The police are not responding to residents' complaints on this.

Geri (Traffic and Safety Chair) will follow up with Chief Hall.

Suggestion from floor – put fountain in lake for aeration.

Sherman Ave. subdivision was discussed – Fred said the planning board is looking at it and if the steep slope law is passed it will impact it.

Guest Presentation – Rocco Troiano, Recreation leader of the Seniors' Program:

Gave us a complete overview of the existing program and told us that the members have a lot to do here at the Mintzer Center and at the downtown program and they have a lot of fun. He announced that they finally have an all day office staff here Monday through Friday. Five day usage will be slow – seniors are set in their ways and we have to go slow with changes.

Monday – quiet but available

Tuesday – Exercise class; 12 to 18 seniors are picked up – door to door transport. Line dancing is from 10:30 to 11:25. They have cake and coffee and are home by 12:00.

Wednesday – Most of the time they are on the road on trips, both day and overnight, like the overnight one he has just arrived back from (about 8:30 pm) with 83 seniors.. They go to many interesting places often with many people and multiple buses two to three times a month. They have a minimum of 40-50 people on the trips and many times they have 100-200 people.

Thursday – Bingo. It is a very big day here. They love it. They start at 11:30 with socialization, then they have business meeting and coffee and cake, and bingo starts at 1:15 and goes to 2:30. Again, door to door transport is offered.

Friday – Downtown program and meeting.

There are other events like blood pressure screening days with the visiting nurse, and guest speakers 6 to 8 times a year on topics such as wills, prescription drug plans, candidates, etc. They have 2 big luncheons offsite, May and December for \$30/each. Very exciting and like a wedding. They have an annual picnic at the park in August. They have up to 250 people at these affairs. June

and July they don't come much because of the day camp here. They take some downtime for pokeno. Their year starts in January and he has a set schedule then for the whole year.

Flu shots are set for November 21, from 1:pm to 3:pm. Member need to call him for a reservation.

He is very proud of the program; it is fun for them; He treats everyone with respect like they were his own parents, and they respect him. There are 200 dues paying seniors here, \$2.00/month, \$24/year. The senior van also transports to doctor visits and they provide cell phones for pick-up calls when they are finished. They have 2 paid drivers for this service and they do 5 to 6 a day. They don't provide for wheelchairs because of the liability and driver license requirements.

They are getting ready to implement the new meal program that has been developed by Rosemary Verano's Senior Committee (our WHNA committee).

The next meeting will be held on November 17th at 7:30pm at the Fire House.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Amodeo, Secretary
West Harrison Neighborhood Association