

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING: January 21, 2009 - Mintzer Recreation Center

Board members present: Gerri Barbagallo, Jeff LaGrotte, Gregg Rosenberg, Charlie Russo, Lori Wilson, Jo Ann King. Absent: Angela Amodeo, Mario Gallo.

Call to order and Welcome.

Treasury Report: Balance for January - \$18, 774. 2009 Budget will be finalized by next month. Insurance is due in October and mid year.

President Lori Wilson: We received a lovely thank you note from a member for the WHNA Christmas card. WHNA is partnering with Antonee's on Broadway. If anyone is a member of WHNA they receive a 10% discount at functions at Antonees. Valentines Dinner Dance and Frank Sinatra Nights are coming up. Questions regarding furniture at senior Center have been addressed to Lori. Call Ron Belmont if you would like to talk to him about this. Mayor Walsh has responded that some round tables are forthcoming.

Main St. Project - 1000 ft sewer will be replaced.

Discussion and comments from membership:

Main St. Project - The road will be shut off at WP line. Underhill access will be for residents of Main St. only. There will be a two week notice prior to road closure.

Elmwood homes are getting flooded. One resident has replaced his garage door three times. "Solution is complicated."

Near Bark Park: Construction ramp is being used as a road! We need to contact DOT. Joan Walsh and Lori Wilson will contact person at DOT.

Committee Reports:

Building Community & Fundraising - Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Celebration - This event had a very nice turnout, **Ann and Al Gaudenzi** are the Grand Illuminators this year! Thanks to everyone who supports this event.

Dinner Dance and Silent Auction will be held on Friday April 24th. "A Starry Night" is the theme. It will be held at Antonees on Broadway in White Plains.

Planning and Zoning - Jo Ann reminded membership of the letter that was given and read at the Town Board Meeting in October. She reminded Mayor Walsh that we are waiting for a timely written response to this letter. She said it would be coming soon.

Public Works & Traffic /Safety - Police are ticketing cars if snowy after 24 hrs.

Seniors - Our new annex is coming up. Thanks to the committee and Joe Canella.

Lunch program is successful. Follow up: rotate meals, revise proposal for furniture for annex, senior water aerobics needs to be later than 6 pm. Lunch program is not take out!

Question to Joan Walsh: how can we find out how much \$ is in Department of Recreation. How much is being budgeted for varied age groups in recreation. There will be a survey for senior activities

Membership - It is time to pay dues for 2009! You must have 2009 dues paid in order to be included in February "Member of the Month" Drawing. Tonight's winner was **Diana Ricci**. She won a \$20 gift certificate for gasoline at the Silver Lake Shell Station s station at intersection of Lake and Underhill.

New Business - Joan Walsh: Question regarding shoveling - Lake Farms sheet of ice. Joan Walsh talked to Public works and asked them to give notice to people. They have scheduled the police to follow up on this. We have had 13 snow storms in last 30 days. Town did not cut budget for snow removal. We now have to replenish salt. During a normal storm 250-450 tons of salt is used ...much more in ice storms. We have enough salt for only one more good storm (700 tons). Part of problem in delay of replenishing is that we buy from state contractor as others do. It is in high demand now. "People need to shovel!" Call police if properties are not shoveled. The police will tell you first and then will give a summons if not rectified. Lake Farms is in bad shape We will call building department.

Question - Madison & Columbus Daniel & Columbus: There are no Parking signs or they are being ignored, as people park too close to corner. The Municipal law is no parking within 15 ft of corner. Question: Can we do something about parking by stores? Tire markers for people who are there too long. The business need to have turnover parking. Mayor Walsh said that Harrison has a meter maid, whose time is mostly spent in downtown Harrison. The Town Board has talked about issuing overnight permits Comment: This won't help carpooler's problem here: People car pool and leave cars during the day. Library parking lot, blvd, etc. Town Board is anxious to do something about this. We want to talk to Town Board about residential parking permits. The State legislature does not approve. Albany has some of them. We hope Albany will not object to our town's request.

Our next meeting - February 11th at the Firehouse.

Special Guest: Mayor Joan Walsh - *Why should we, residents, have to call police about parking issues? Shouldn't police take care of these problems?* Mayor Walsh said if it is a "paper street" there is no parking summons. Town wants to sell paper streets. Property is offered for purchase to next door neighbor if less than building lot. Person can buy it unless it makes another bldg lot.

Passidomo Park: most work is being held up due to weather. Curbing, electrical, etc. is in already. It "will be impressive!" zero gravity pool is 30% done. This means one can walk in, not deep to jump in or require a ladder at that end. Passidomo Park is 90 % done. Phase 2 of the project will be done by March.

Original plan called for walkway around park area around town. This is too expensive and is not being done. *Question: Can we have our town employees do the walkway? This walkway connects to the Heritage Trail. This needs to be looked at.* Many decisions need to be made.

The new pool will be opened this summer. Con Ed underground service was to be done the week of Jan 19th. Snow delays. Now, early February. Verizon: Feb. 5, now March 5. Poles will be down by end of March. One month later than scheduled. Mintzer Center Annex: no change in construction costs. Things are moving along. Completion by Mar 1st. Now is 55% done. *Questions: Can drinking water fountain be fixed as flow is low and people have to put mouth on metal part. Not healthy.*

Streetscape: 95% road paving is done. Shrubs will go in. Dock at park won't go in. Carp will go in in spring. Fence is in so they won't swim away. Main Street sidewalk is still in plans. Town is allowed to put sidewalks in. People are responsible to shovel snow on sidewalks in front of their houses.

Mintzer annex cost \$1,241,000. Streetscape cost \$1,416,000. Passidomo Park cost \$3, 895,089. *When will Lake St. go from one way to two ways?* Not known. Road will be same width as before. *Roadway seems very tight! There is no easy way to crosswalks. There is no handicap access.* The crosswalks were designed to go at ends of town. We have to have a ramp between the planters for walkway and handicap access. *Comment- Curbs are high.* Asphalt will be added and this will raise road. Fred: The width of the road will be okay. Poles have to go before it is a two-way road again, probably in May.

Mintzer Annex: Furnishings: there is \$50k to complete inside. This includes loud speaker, TV, window treatments, \$50K is not just for *furniture*. Office will have desks, pool table. Round tables will be bought. These are better for conversation. Bingo, etc. is better served with rectangular tables. There will be some of each. There will be three telephones. *Cable lines put in for computers?*

Commercial speeding on Lake St. /Barnes Lane to Park Lane. Street is narrow. Added busses go up Lake St. too. Serious issue. Barnes La is dangerous. No police is monitoring this area. Most cars go 55 mph there.

Illegal Housing - Spoke to 72 active cases according to bldg inspector. Bob Fitzsimmons is talking to other municipalities' officials to see how they do it. No other town has the overtime that we do. In White Plains, police hand out most summonses. In Tuckahoe, the board of education has helped where a renter has to have an affidavit from the landlord. *Questions: How long does it take to get fine?* 8-9 months. Building inspectors now have laptops in cars so they can give and get information from town mainframe.

Comment: Purchasing department has too many people for the size of the budget we have. Why not use someone from that department trained to help with illegal dwellings. Civil Service guidelines must be met.

Civil service is difficult to work with in regard to layoffs. Town of Harrison has four unions. Building Inspectors can do code enforcement.

Stimulus Plan: The federal government wants to know how many jobs will it create? How soon? (Nita Lowey would be our contact person for this. It would probably entail 100 temporary construction jobs and 42 permanent jobs. We hope to get one of these projects from U.S. government – MTA, flood project, Gleason Place garage.)

Water works - Judge said we have to pay if project not done by Dec 2008 - \$13,000/day fine. What is needed is the size of two football fields and 40-50- feet high. The county needs to build an ultraviolet plant in Kensico Dam. We have asked the Dept of Health if we can join this. We are now working with someone in Albany on the political side. Town has hired a new manager for water works who says if we stop selling our water (from Rye Lake and Shaft 2) to both New Rochelle and Port Chester, we could get enough water for our use from Shaft 2. This was in September. We are accruing fines of \$13,000/day until "plan of no longer selling to Port Chester" works.

Sales tax - Do you want a letter from Mayor Walsh to use when shopping for large items that states we are in Harrison, not White Plains? No one seems to have a sales tax problem.

Question: robot call regarding pipes -.timing and cost? No cost to town.

Question: Verizon: according to state law, companies must fund local access studio. Cablevision has one. Verizon would have to give \$450,000 over 2 yrs. Verizon said they would give \$350,000. "Took their marbles home!" They'll be back! Pleasantville is having the same situation with Verizon.

(Recorded by Jo Ann King)