

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting: January 19, 2006 at the West Harrison Fire House

Attendance: Total - 41. Board members present: 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.

The **minutes of the last meeting of November 17, 2005** were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff LaGrotte reported a balance of \$2300.00. Donations are needed to supplement dues. Tax exempt status needs another month or two to go through. Next month he will present the year end summary.

Membership Report: Angela and Lisa reported 242 dues paying members to date. Lisa sent out the last of the mailings to complete the membership drive. We need attendees to join and pay dues to keep association running.

Tree Lighting Ceremony Review: Angela reported on the successful event that was enjoyed by many. Taylor Square was filled to capacity. There was recorded music, singing and some short speeches at the square where the tree was beautifully decorated and prepared for the lighting with a decorated switch unit. The two side trees were strung with white lights. A small stage was set up with all the audio equipment. Kathryn Raio singing was a big hit. She had a student of hers, Ava Scavone, sing also. After the singing and the lighting everyone went back to the firehouse where many different kinds of food and refreshments were waiting. The crowd there filled the entire firehouse. It was very well received and we got many compliments. Total expenses were relatively low because almost all major expenses were donated by the following merchants: **Corporate ID Systems/Sophisticated Signs, Community Mutual Savings Bank, Underhill Mini Mart, Pepsico, Silver Lake Pizza, Via Appia, Vasi's Deli, Michelangelo's, Silver Lake Contracting, Pilone's, The Jottery, and Neri's Bakery.** And **Kathryn Raio** also donated her wonderful singing. Our Board of Directors did all the hard work for this affair and we thank the group of volunteer members that helped us that night – **Richard Conrad, Roe Verano, Rosemary Cirioni, Kathy Sgro, and Anna Scavone, and also James Gallo. Public Works Commissioner Bob Wasp** was thanked for his cooperation in getting done all the important preparations. As was **Recreation Superintendent Ron Belmont** for his help with preparations and the work he did for us that night. Thanks also went to **Mayor Malfitano** and **Councilmen Cannella and Scapaticci** for their support and attendance.

Parks and Recreation: Charlie Russo reported that the new field was ready to go with the turf installation with a lot of perimeter work going on. The turf should now go down in March. No flooding at all with all the recent rains. The drainage has already proved successful. The new lighting system has been installed. The new pool is set to be started in March. The streetscape has been delayed because there are negotiations going on with Con Ed and Verizon about the overhead vs underground wires.

Seniors: Rosemarie Verano reported that the lunch program that the senior committee instituted at both senior centers was going very well. The one at the Mintzer Center had too many attending for Thursdays so they moved it to Mondays with a movie. Pilone's is catering and there are 30 to 40 seniors dining. Some seniors want it on more days but that is not possible yet. She hopes to help institute a new ceramics program and a "Grandparent and Me" program with the children from the day care center upstairs. She wants to send out a needs survey to the seniors. The town has had an architect look at the Mintzer Center for renovation possibilities. A new facility may be the best way to go. The committee is invited to the next town board meeting to be recognized for the work in getting the senior lunch program planned, up and running at both centers in town. She mentioned the recent serious injury that occurred to Ron Belmont who will be out of commission for quite a while.

Planning and Zoning will meet next week Fred asked for members to sign up for committees.

Traffic and Safety: Lisa reported that our committees recommendation for a resolution to remove all plows from trucks parked in town by April 1st was passed by the town board. Geri Barbagallo did a great job with the committee last year. They had a number of accomplishments.

Fred wants to set up two new committees:

Post Office Task Force -We finally got some info on needed specs for a new post office. He discussed the problems of satisfying the postal authorities. Many feel that don't want to cooperate. He will be measuring two locations on Saturday.

Lake Preservation Task Force – **Fred** wrote a letter to NY state stating our concern about the condition of the lake and wanting to work with White Plains for its preservation. He hopes that White Plains Mayor Delfino will work with Harrison in this endeavor. The lake view has been opened up by thinning of the growth and it looks good.

Fund Raising: Mario Gallo reported on preparations for our upcoming 1st Annual Dinner Dance. Tickets are \$60 each for dinner, open bar, and DJ, at Antonee's on North Broadway, with a journal and a silent auction. See website for further info. There will be 150 tickets sold. We need volunteers to help. April 1st, Saturday.

Fred – the NYSDOT has notified homeowners on Locust Ave. of the upcoming construction of a noise barrier in conjunction with major reconstruction work of 287 at interchange 8. He sent a letter asking to the DOT asking them to meet with us. They will be presenting their plans Thursday night at the town board meeting. (Kathy Sanchez, a resident of Locust said the state will be going into people's back yards where they have things even though it is state land. How will this massive wall look. They are also going to eliminate the access to Underhill Ave. from Westchester Ave. It will put all traffic through Locust and White Plains Aves. People need to go to the meeting and hear the plan.)

Floor Issues & Discussions:

1. Highway department and Con Ed doing great job with the damaged caused by the high winds recently. The tree cutting project is seen as so important now.
2. Snow plowing complaints – piles made in wrong places – redirect the plowers.
3. Education committee is needed to monitor the huge bond issue being prepared by the Harrison Board of Education – 150 million dollars. (Fred - our board is considering inviting the Superintendent of Schools and the president of the school board to a meeting.
4. Have Public Works Commissioner Bob Wasp as a guest speaker.
5. Update on new waterlines – Lakeview done, another phase starting soon.

6. The vacant bakery was offered to the post office authorities but they didn't want to pay the necessary rent. Shame on the Post Office – we gave them the property for their regional facility, absorbing the huge tax loss and we are in that zip code 2 miles away with no facility.
7. The town needs to look into the conditions at the quarry on Lake St. They were turned down when they filed for a zoning change to open a nursery, but they are now selling from there anyway. They are also running a recycling and reprocessing center and there are two huge tents and supplies piled up at the edge of the roadway. Silt is flowing into Lake St. What are they processing and how have they been allowed to increase the scope of business.
8. Complaint about the debris in the empty lot above Clark's Towing.
9. There is a vacancy on the library board. The present board rep has not responded to us. The town has hired an architect to improve the library. It needs to be maintained properly. It is one of the most beautiful buildings in West Harrison.
10. Bus stops need improvements.

The next meeting will be around February 15. We probably will be changing our meeting day to Wednesdays.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Amodeo, Secretary
West Harrison Neighborhood Association