

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING: March 25, 2009, Mintzer Recreation Center

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

President Lori Wilson called to order and welcomed all.

The **minutes of the February 11th** meeting were approved.

Treasury Report: Jeff LaGrotte - Balance \$21,850.00. Very little activity.

President Report: - Lori Wilson – discussed questions about use of field at park by college teams. Little League having hard time scheduling practices and kids can't use for pickup games.

Our Board of Directors has decided to donate \$100.00 worth of food to the Harrison food pantry.

Guest Presentation: Nina Marraccini, Director of Community Services discussed the Harrison Food Pantry. They serve about 50 clients – low income families having difficult time, single mothers, families separating because of hard times, some seniors, some people on section 8, a couple of new families from wealthier sections of town, and also some West Harrison residents. The food pantry operates out of the Girl House on Crotona Ave. and is opened the last Friday of the month unless there is an emergency. Most donations come in around the holidays. The Chamber of Commerce has donated. The local charity Children's Hope Chest has supplied coats for children. They get a mix of government and private funding. They need non-perishable foods, clothes according to specific needs (ask her). Office telephone – 6703026. Her cell phone – 447-5412.

Committee Reports:

Traffic & Safety – Gerri Barbagallo – The police department is working on reducing the speed limit on Lake Street. (Nina Marraccini mentioned program that they run where seniors are called to check on them and where a police officer stops by daily to check their safety.)

Parks & Recreation – Charlie Russo – The carp fence has been installed in the lake and wants to find out when the carp will be introduced. He discussed the signage that we are supplying for the Heritage Trail at the lake. We will be spending about \$4000.00 to on this project – our giving back to our community.

Building Community & Fundraising – Mario Gallo – tickets on sale for Starry Night Dinner Dance and Silent Auction to be held Friday, April 24th. Please come. Open bar all night.

Planning & Zoning – Jo King – A member reported to her that he has gotten action on 2 illegal dwellings that are now in court. She will ask Mayor about the lack of a Code Enforcement agent who is suspended indefinitely at this time and about a response to our letter that was presented at the town board meeting.

Seniors – Ro Verano – Ron Belmont is preparing a budget proposal for a part timer to staff the new Mintzer Annex for the seniors when it opens. They are working on getting water aerobics reinstated. They did a survey on the programs that the seniors would be interested in. And are looking forward to the grand opening of the new building. It will be opened Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Membership - Dues must be paid for 2009 to participate in our the member of the month drawing. **Member of the Month** was chosen. Paul Dunning received a gift certificate to Vasi & Verotti Deli.

Our next meeting will be here at the fire house on Wednesday, April 15th.

Guest Presentation: Supervisor / Mayor Joan Walsh – She discussed the recent revelation that the county does not want to reopen the Columbus Ave. Bridge to White Plains and she set up a meeting with the county executives assistant. Fire Chief Pat Galluzzo and Town Engineer Bob Wasp will be attending with her. (Councilman Fred Sciliano said he would also go.) She is bringing pictures taken of the Locust Ave. intersection and area by member Tony Sanchez.

(Councilman Joe Cannella discussed the sidewalk to be installed on main Street with the membership. Mr. Wasp wants this done to improve safety. Residents of the south side of Main St., 3 of our members, adamantly do not want this. They feel the are being penalized. They will have to maintain it – shovel snow – when illegalities by the residents on the north side have been ignored by the town. Mr. Cannella stated that the town is investing significantly in the project to solve the flooding problem and it wasn't meant to cause other problems. He wants to know the point of view of this association. A heated discussion followed.)

Streetscape – Mayor Joan said that Verizon will soon finish taking away their poles, then Con-Ed will be done in a couple of weeks. Paving will begin after that. The newly installed light poles are really nice. Pool – is moving along. It is magnificent – will be a beautiful facility. They are planning a grand opening on Memorial Day weekend. The senior annex is coming along very nicely. A decorator from town is working on a neutral and calm theme. The have a budget for furniture and also are getting some donations from Pepsico of furniture they don't need anymore. There will be some round tables. The opening is planned for May 21st in conjunction with the fireman's memorial services.

The Falcon housing project on the steep slope behind Woodside has been changed to 8 townhouses. It goes down to the Mamaroneck Brook – the town dredged it and the equipment fell in – full of muck.

Illegal Housing – 3 assistant building inspectors are going out during the day doing 3 to 5 houses per day. If no one is home they post a letter and give them 2 weeks to respond. It is a slower process but works. If they don't hear from them they go back at night, then to court. There have recently been 23 inspections, 16 letters, and 2 illegal dwellings found. There were 4 unfounded reports and 58 outstanding cases. Some are in court. One owner was fined \$10,000.00. If we want names we have to file freedom of information papers. She has a letter prepared to go out to all home owners in town notifying everyone of the legality of their residence and giving them notice to correct any illegalities. (She said she didn't know if she was going to use it but the membership encouraged her to do so.)

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Amodeo, Secretary