

**West End Association
Minutes for August Meeting: August 9, 2011**

**West End Association
November 8, 2011
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Kristi Marion, Sec.
George Bryan
David Phillips
Clare Fader
Kristin Absher
David Poythress, II
Dan McLaughlin
Bill Brewer
Jeff Zillner
Kathleen Ramich
Kathy Stanley
Stan Hill
Helen S. Smith
David & Lisa Elam

Guests from West Highlands Neighborhood Assoc.:

Debbie Lafferty
Elen Knott
Joe & Langdon Oppermann
Roger & Robin Foster

West End Association Secretary, Kristi Marion called the meeting to order.

Approval of the October minutes was postponed to the December meeting, as Treasurer Eric Elliott took the minutes at the October meeting and he was absent tonight due to a death in his family.

The Treasurer's Report was postponed to the December meeting in the Treasurer's absence.

New Business: Demolition of Hanes Park Bridge (guest West Highlands Neighborhood Association).

David Poythress reviewed the recent history of the Hanes Park bridge in question. The bridge is in disrepair, so Parks & Rec ordered a bridge and had poured the footings for it, however, they failed to apply to the HRC and the installation was halted. The city has now applied for demolition of the bridge, declaring it unsafe and unrepairable and because their budget to replace it is

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spent on the previous bridge. Guest Don Opperman from West Highlands Association, and also an architect, disagrees that the bridge cannot be repaired. After a lengthy discussion and the general consensus that we'd like the bridge to be saved if at all possible, Stan Hill suggested we invite Tim Grant of Parks and Rec. to the December or January meeting to discuss plans for the bridge. David Poythress was asked to contact Tim and invite him to speak briefly at the December meeting. The West Highlands Association was invited to return to our next meeting, when hopefully, Tim can speak to us.

YMCA Signage:

David Poythress brought technical drawings of the new signs being requested by the YMCA. The signs are illuminated, white signs, similar to the ones previously applied for. The HRC denied one of the signs, but allowed the other. Poythress' point was that we need greater neighborhood representation on the HRC, as the HRC probably allowed the sign because no one opposed a similar sign at a neighborhood attorney's office. Neighbors are urged to report any violation of HRC regulations to the HRC immediately.

Old Business- Renewal of 501(c)3 - President Mark Lively (in absentia) Eric has reported that our attorney has submitted a letter to the IRS that documents the actions that led to the mistaken cancellation of the WEA 501(c)3 status. Eric has put in a lot of personal time and effort to track down all documentation about the status of the WEA and the process by which the IRS mistakenly canceled our status. We are waiting for a response from the IRS. We have apparently gone slightly over budget on our approved amount for the efforts by our attorney.

Fourth Street Bridge Closing:

Members discussed the pros and cons of closing the Fourth Street bridge. It was generally felt that closing would be a positive move. Kristin Absher noted that she would like to see statistics on the crime rate before and after the closing of similar bridges. The Association plans to voice these opinions of the bridge closing at next month's meeting with City Council Member Wanda Merschel.

Crime:

Both Mark Lively and Clare Fader have been in contact with David Smitherman about recent crimes in our neighborhood. Smitherman proposed a special meeting SEPARATE from the regular WEA meeting to discuss residents concerns and share crime prevention methods. The meeting date proposed is **Monday, November 28th, at 5:30**, place tbd, perhaps Brunson Elementary or St. Paul's Episcopalian Church.

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Discussion ensued with members desiring re-instituting the regular attendance of an officer at our monthly meetings to give a report of the month's crimes and hear concerns. Stan Hill pointed out that just reporting alone would not deter crime, but that we as a neighborhood should be more active in preventing crime. He told of his history while in the Upper West End neighborhood, where they instituted initiatives such as pushing the bike patrol to patrol their neighborhood; officers went door to door to offer crime prevention information; they had quarterly neighborhood gatherings where they would eat together, hear from an officer about crime in the area, then set out literally cleaning up the neighborhood. This fostered a better relationship and a dialogue with the police. Their efforts reduced crime and even won an award. Their methods were used as an model that police presented to other neighborhoods.

Proposed Development of YWCA Property:

Developer Bill Benton is proposing to build a residential complex on the site of the former YWCA. As stated in an email that went out to the neighborhood list serve: local company that is proposing a development project on the YWCA property on Glade Street that is for sale. The project would involve converting the existing YWCA building into five high-end condos, and building several single-family homes on the remaining land. The exterior look of the main YWCA building would not be altered, only the interior will be changed. Other buildings and additions to the YWCA will be removed for the single-family home project, totaling about 20 homes. The additional single-family homes will look similar to those found in historic Charleston, with long porches on the first and second levels, brick courtyards, and two-car "carriage house" garages.

These single-family homes will be very high-end properties and according to the development company, the price point will be \$650k- \$950k. No land has been purchased and no permits have yet been acquired. Bill Benton, a leader in this project, would like to present the plans for the project to West End Neighbors in the form of an **Open House at the YWCA (on Glade) on Sunday, November 20th from 2pm-4pm.**

December Meeting: Our guest speaker at our next meeting on December 13th at 7:00 p.m. is City Council Member Wanda Merschel. **Folks were reminded to submit questions to her prior to that meeting via email at kemonam@cityofws.org, using the subject heading, "WEA Meeting Question".**

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December Social: Information to come regarding a neighborhood social for the holidays, possibly a pot luck gathering at Old Winston Social Club.

Newsletter- Attendees were reminded that the deadline for newsletter content is **November 20th**.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.