

West End Association July 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mark Lively, Pres. Susan Morris, VP, Kevin Nunley, Treas. Kristi Marion, Sec. Dan McLaughlin George Bryan, Stan Hill, Mary Jane Skelly, Sarah Williamson, Councilwoman Wanda Merschel, Rob Ulery, Robin Voiers, Kathleen Ramich, Dr. Margaret Hermann, Frank Johnson, P.J. Lenihan, Ben C. Wilson, Sr., Jim & Missie Vaughan, Brad Zabel, Alisa Keegan, Jay Wise, guest

West End Association President, Mark Lively called the meeting to order.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's position has been transferred from Eric Elliott, who has resigned, to Kevin Nunley. All but three newsletter advertisers have now paid for the year and we recruited two new members this month. There was little change in the financial balances.

New Business:

Newsletter:

Mark Tirrell, newsletter designer, wants content for the August newsletter by July 15th. Mary Jane Skelly volunteered to be the editor and take over overseeing newsletter distribution from Alton Absher, as well as the business administrator for the newsletter, recruiting advertisers.

Content for August Newsletter: Claudine Von Grunebaum will provide an article about the Friends of the Library. Mark Lively volunteered to write a piece reminding neighbors to put their yard/recycling/garbage carts away within 24 hours after pickup, as WEA guidelines require. Sarah Williamson will do a write up about the WEA's refraining to take a position on the Stadium issue. Susan Morris will provide info on the upcoming Shalom Project ice cream fundraiser.

Old Business-

Fourth St. Bridge: Dr. Margaret Herman asked what action had been taken since the attendees of the WEA meeting with the DOT in February all raised their hands that they'd like to see the Fourth Street bridge (before Peters Creek Pkwy) closed, suggesting a poll of residents on the Listserv and in the newsletter. Wanda Merschel said that at one time public safety did not want the route closed, nor did the Ardmore community, however, Dr. Herman said she had spoken with the Fire Marshall personally and he said closing the bridge was not an issue for them. Dr. Herman asked that the Ardmore neighborhood be officially polled.

Taking a Position on RJR High Stadium:

There was much discussion among board members and attendees from both sides of the stadium issue whether or not the WEA should take a position on the

proposed RJR stadium. It was noted that although the many neighbors had initial concerns when they were proposing the baseball field, the WEA did not take an official position. Dan McLaughlin felt the WEA needed to remain neutral and be a forum for both sides to share and residents to learn. George Bryan noted that the WEA has taken a position in the past on such issues, but as noted in the by-laws, such issues must be central to the West End neighborhood and effect livability.

Guest Jay Wise, former principal of Brunson Elementary and Wiley Middle School and others spoke out against the proposed stadium; while Jim Vaughan and others were in favor of it.

Board member Stan Hill asked if Jay Wise would write something about the history of Brunson Elementary and Wiley Middle School for our WEA website.

After further discussion, Sarah Williamson moved that the WEA not take a stand yea or nay on the stadium at this time, but gather information around the issues that would affect the surrounding neighborhood.

Frank Johnson seconded the motion. None opposed.

Local Crime: West End resident, Frank Johnson was a recent victim of mugging and assault. He commended the local police bike patrol for their speedy arrival (3 minutes) at the scene, for capturing the perpetrators and retrieving his stolen items.

Board member Sarah Williamson also commended the police for quickly arriving after a hit-and-run on her street (Fourth St.), and their capture of the perpetrators (getting gas at the BP on First St. with airbags deployed).

West End's "Best": The group congratulated Susan Morris for being voted "Mover & Shaker" in Smitty's Notes annual "Best of Winston-Salem" contest. It was noted that several West End Businesses won "Best of" categories. Mary Jane Skelly volunteered to write up the list to be included in the August newsletter.

August Meeting: Our August meeting will be held Tuesday, August 14, 2012 in West End Room of the YMCA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.