

West End Newsletter - July 1986

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING: APPROVAL GIVEN TO GRACE COURT PARK RESTORATION

A general neighborhood meeting of the West End Association was held at the YWCA on Tuesday, July 1, 1986 to present the Neighborhood Appearance Committee's plan for restoring Grace Court Park.

The Committee's preliminary designs were developed in cooperation with the city and included plans for lighting, plantings, benches and a gazebo to replace the fountain. After these designs were completed, an anonymous donor offered to provide the funds for the lighting, the gazebo and the replacement of the present fountain with a reproduction of the Victorian-style fountain that graced the park until 1942 when it was removed in a moment of patriotic fervor. The West End Association would fund the plantings and the benches, and the city has agreed to furnish the labor for the plantings and for many of the other changes that are involved.

A motion to accept the committee's work with appreciation was approved unanimously. A motion to allocate \$3,000 toward the Grace Court Park final plan and authorize the committee to search for a landscape architect to work with Mr. Siefert, the anonymous donor and the committee on a final plan which would include both a gazebo and a fountain was approved. There was a consensus of opinion that the landscape architect should be from outside the association.

The final plan will be subject to the approval of the West End Association, the anonymous donor, and the city recreation department but there is no indication that any of those approvals will be difficult to obtain once the plans are completed.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:45 in what probably should be described as a state of euphoria for 45 to 50 people whose wildest dreams had come true through the hard work of the Neighborhood Appearance Committee, and Mr. Laryl Siefert of the City Parks Department, and through the kindness of a person who has a special regard for the West End and Grace Court Park. Bill Wise

WEST END BOARD MEETING: GRACE COURT PARK PLANS MOVING FORWARD,
POSITIONS TAKEN ON BILLBOARDS, EAST WEST THROUGHFARE OPTIONS.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the West End Association was held July 8th at Mike Page's house. Attending were Mike Page, Carlie Hughes, Rich Teague, Bill Harper, Pence Callahan, Ann Freeman, Pete and Barbara Smitherman, John Mitchell, Bill Wise and Paul Shepard. Barbara Smitherman, reporting for the Neighborhood Appearance Committee, requested and received board approval of the selection of a landscape architect, Bill Gould, to develop the final plans for Grace Court Park and \$300.00 of the \$3,000.00 neighborhood commitment was approved for this purpose. Mr. Gould has extensive experience in site planning and is a professor of landscape architecture at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. He has visited Grace Court Park and has developed a preliminary layout which pleased the members of the committee and drew immediate acceptance from Laryl Seifert of the City Parks Department. Mr. Gould and Mr. Seifert will work together to produce a detailed final plan for locating the gazebo, the fountain, the light standards, benches and plantings. Barbara is starting a scrapbook of items to provide a history of the park and this program. She still needs a picture of the old fountain which served the park until 1942. Look through your old photos!

Paul Shepard reported on the Citizens Advisory Committee hearings on billboards and signs. Two problems appear to dominate the situation. The present city ordinance is among the more liberal in the state and there is little or no effort by the city or the county to enforce the regulations. A motion to support a six point program of control measures was approved by the Board. The six points are: (1) Survey existing signs and enforce the present regulations, (2) More stringent regulations governing signs, (3) Adequate provisions to deter and reverse the proliferation of signs that has already occurred, particularly on the thoroughfares and expressways, (4) Strict regulation of the blinking and mobile signs which we find to be particularly objectionable, (5) No liberalization of the 35 foot high requirement, and (6) A requirement that billboards be spaced at least 1500 feet apart. It was noted that this position put the West End close in accord with other neighborhoods that have considered this issue, such as Ardmore and West Highlands. The Board also noted that there is presently an illegal billboard overlooking the West End in the vicinity of Second Street and Brockstown Avenue and voted unanimously to file a complaint with the Inspection Division as to this and any other sign in violations.

hence Callahan reported on the meeting of West End South residents and the city highway planners and consultants regarding the changes to I-46 and the construction of the East-West Freeway. The Board approved a motion to support the West End South position which calls for building the East-West Freeway with only minimum improvements to I-46, that specifically provide for the following elements: (1) Elimination of the 4th Street Bridge over I-46, (2) Positioning of I-46 as far south as possible where it borders the neighborhood, (3) Preservation of the historic Lorminy Studios building, (4) Construction of adequate noise and visual barriers, (5) Maintenance of the present grade and elevation of the highway where it borders the neighborhood, and (6) Provisions for minimal impact upon the neighborhood during construction.

Paul Shepard reported that the Arts Council is working through the neighborhood associations to develop a program of events for Winston Square. We need volunteers to attend the Arts Council meetings to bring views on the type of events which should be planned. Paul will be glad to have your call.

In other business, it was reported that \$7,500 was allocated in this year's city budget and it is anticipated that the joint West Highlands/West End Committee which pushed for Hanes Park improvements will re-convene and work with the city for the design and implementation phases of this project. Martha Harper is our contact person for our neighborhood, so please contact her if you have any questions. Also reported was the progress in planning for utility line improvements in the West End; the matter is right now before the Utilities Commission and Paul Shepard is following this effort.

We hope that many more meetings will be held at Mike's house where the warm and comfortable atmosphere was made even more enjoyable by soft drinks, coffee and more eatables than any of us needed. We finally broke away about 10:30. Bill Wise

WEST END SOUTH RESIDENTS MEET WITH POLICE OFFICIALS

On Wednesday, July 11, approximately 35 residents of the West End South Neighborhood met with Major Robertson, Captain Letticort, and Officer Lane of the Winston-Salem Police Department at the YMCA to discuss recent incidents along Fourth Street and Piedmont Avenue. The Police Department reviewed their records of those incidents and reassured those neighbors present of their awareness of the situation. Specific suggestions by various residents were discussed and the representatives of the Police Department agreed to implement as many as possible. The neighborhood greatly appreciates the help of the Police Department and looks forward to working with them to help maintain a safe and secure neighborhood.

BOARD MEETING AT YMCA ON AUGUST 12th - THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WEST END ASSOCIATION WILL BE AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE YMCA ON AUGUST 12th.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS FOR WEST END

July 14th, 16th, & 18th - 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. - The Flexus Mime Troup will perform in Grace Court Park. FREE ICE CREAM WILL BE SERVED.
July 28th, 29th, 30th & 31st and August 1st - 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. - Erass Ensemble will perform for us as they did last year. Tell all your friends.

Also don't forget the Christmas Tour coming up December 20th and 21st. Volunteers are still needed. For more information please contact Murial Macry at 722-1126.

SECTION 8 CERTIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING

A large multi-family house in the neighborhood has recently changed hands and the new owners wish to rent to West End senior citizens with Section 8 certificates. (To qualify for Section 8 certificates one must be over 62 and have an income less than approx. \$9,200 per year. The certificate holder pays up to 25% of his/her income for rent, the rest being subsidized. Several of the immediate neighbors feel this is a worthy goal in itself and for the neighborhood, and we wish to help these new owners. Interested people who meet the qualifications may call 725-5771 - Ron Little.

West End Association P.O. Box 161 Winston-Salem, N.C. 27112 Dues for 1986

Single \$5.00 per yr. Family \$5.00 per yr. Senior Citizens \$2.00 per yr.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Comments _____
