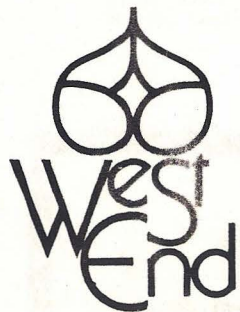


THE WEST END ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting of the West End Association will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, at the home of Chris and Mary Beth Chapman, 1017 West Fifth Street. Please inform the President if you can not attend.

The West End Association Post Office Box 161 Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102

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By and for the
West End Neighborhood

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

At the time you are reading this newsletter, members of the Board of Directors of the West End Association are actively conducting a membership drive. We have prepared a brochure describing the history of the West End neighborhood and the West End Association which also sets forth our goals, purposes, and actively solicits the membership of others in our neighborhood. If any of you are aware of persons who wish to become members of the association, please let any Board Member know of their interest and we will personally get in touch with them and give them a copy of our new brochure. Dues are tax deductible at \$10.00 a year per family, \$7.50 per single members, \$5.00 for Senior Citizens and full time students. Anyone can join by simply sending their name, address, and telephone number with a check to THE WEST END ASSOCIATION, Post Office Box 161, Winston-Salem, NC 27102. Please join us in our effort.

WEST END ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES

October, 1981

The October meeting of the West End Association was held at the home of Martha and Bill Harper on Tuesday the 13th. Only two of the twelve seats on the Board were not represented and all of the officers were presented.

Rence Callahan reported for the public relations committee on their efforts to close some of the more serious loop-holes in the City/County zoning law. The problem is both simple and complex. Simple in the fact that the present law is of little or no value because it is vague and easy to circumvent. Complex in that the politicians who administer the law want it the way it is because it gives them the opportunity to wheel and deal. Any plan to change this situation must be carefully conceived. The committee has looked at zoning plans recently adopted by other cities. Their recommendation is to establish two new zoning classifications: RIR (where only residential use would be permitted) and RIB (where some small businesses could be mixed with residential use). This change was proposed in a letter to Mr. Harry Wiler of the City Planning Board staff.

The West End Association has endorsed the plan and Bill Harper, Rence and other members of the committee plan to "take it on the road" to other neighborhood associations in an effort to get them to add their endorsement.

Next came the hot potato. The Winston-Salem Journal carried an article which stated that the West End Association had proposed to the City Parks Department that a fee (something like \$60.00) be charged for events held in Grace Court Park and that the money be used for maintenance of the park. A number of weddings, parties and social gatherings (in addition to the West End events) have been held in the Gazebo since the park was dedicated.

First, the West End Association has made no such proposal. Establishing a policy of formal reservations would certainly cause major problems for West End events which are scheduled only weeks in advance because many of the performers are volunteer and work us into their play for pay schedules. Bill Harper will contact the Parks Department to see what the story is.

HISTORY OF THE WEST END

Part II

Disappointed over the turn of events, leaders in the hotel and land corporation decided to once again take stock of which way to turn. They looked over a map of Winston, then 43 years old, and decided that the emphasis should be placed on fine, well-constructed homes along West End Boulevard, Fourth and Fifth Streets, Summit Street and all the connecting streets that were developing. They found that West End was being pushed farther west by the growth of the town which had been stymied for its first 20 years by lack of capital and the problems of the Civil War. Some of the original fine homes in Winston, for instance, had been built as close downtown as the corner of Fourth and Trade, Second and Main and Third and Cherry Streets. Originally, the western part of what is now the business district had been laid out as a housing development with the names of the streets all being adopted from trees, a familiar practice of developers. Trade Street originally was Elm Street. Marshall originally was Pine. The other streets now bear their same names - Cherry, Spruce and Poplar. With the town expanding to take up this originally-allocated housing area, these people - many of them of considerable means - would be seeking close-in sites for fine homes. The hotel and land corporation decided its future was in the field of fine home development. The dream of making Winston a resort died.

Sites Were Large

In the next 20 years, West End became the most important single residential area in North Carolina. Most of its fine homes occupied sites 100 feet wide and 250 feet deep. Four - and - a Half Street originally wasn't a street at all but an alley which gave homeowners on both Fourth and Fifth Streets access to the stables at the rear of their property. It was not the property but the people who were to make West End a fascinating place to live. Mostly they were the young, vibrant leaders of a growing town. On the north side of Fifth at Poplar lived the Gorrell Families - three houses strong. At the other end of the block, the five daughters of Joseph Bitting kept the young men of the town beating a path to their door. One of them, Kate, married her accross - the - street neighbor, Will Reynolds. On the other side of the street, there were the Williamsons, the Reynolds, the Grays, the Moseleys and others. The West End section was filled with people who worked for the future of their town. On Fourth Street lived Robert Broadnax Glenn, the only governor Forsyth County has ever provided (1905 - 09). Then there were the Sheltons, Craiges, Griffiths, Harpers, Noels, Owens, Wilsons, Keys, Lawrences, Pattersons, Stocktons, Boggs, Taylors, Crawford, Watkins, Hanes, Bohannons, Grimes, Jones, Swinks, Maslins, Marlars, Rosenbachers, Daltons, Ogburns, Browns, Liipferts, Sheppards, and Poindexters, to mention a few. Residents of West End carefully avoided scandal and developed for themselves "a special kind of integrity." When A. B. Gorrell was elected mayor in 1879, for instance, he lived at the corner of Poplar Street and a very muddy, undesirable Fifth Street. His neighbors went to see him, asking that he do something immediately to alleviate the "unbearable" condition of their street. "No, no," he said. "Don't ask that. This is the very last street I shall consider improving. For nobody must say that I used a public office to benefit my own property." When a decision was being reached in 1904 for the location of the town's first library, some of the leaders of West End declined to put it in their area because it wouldn't be centrally located for people in the distant parts of town. It was built at Third and Cherry Streets. The people of West End developed a close attachment for each other. When R. B. Kerner was mayor in the 1890's it was common to see him hurrying in his buggy to answer a fire call. He rarely missed going to a fire when he was mayor. And he usually had a line of buggies racing behind him.

Died in Office

Whether this had anything to do with his fate isn't known, but he was the only mayor of Winston to die while he was in office. Practically every man in West End was a volunteer fireman, too. While they and their families liked to think of the job as a civic duty, there was one encouragement that brought wealthy men out to battle blazes: Volunteer firemen were excused from paying town property taxes. Folks in West End were frequent visitors in each other's homes. It was traditional that everyone in the section held open house on New Year's Day. One man recalls visiting 52 homes on one such day. Before the newspaper started publishing daily, West End homes used to pass news - particularly notices of deaths - from home to home with the help of their servants. West End residents were quick to offer suggestions for the improvements of their section. Mrs. W. B. (Bill) Taylor, who lived on W. Fourth Street, wrote the Journal on Dec. 21, 1903: "One of the greatest needs of the Twin City is a pretty public square with a nice driveway around it at the West End terminus of the street railway to take the place of our ugly, unkempt, public cow pasture. Mrs. E. L. Lockett fought a years-long campaign for clean streets in Winston. Christine Walker worked to get West End Boulevard paved and lighted - and didn't give up until it was. In the big houses that dotted West End, some important decisions in the history of Winston were made. H. Montague stood one night in 1887 in the Robah Gray house to proclaim that he would establish an award to inspire high school scholars - a medal which today is the highest honor a student can win here. Cicero Tise, who moved from the northern part of town to build the house now used by the Woman's Club, helped plan the formation of Children's Home in his living room.

Supported Merger

J. L. Ludlow helped write the speeches in his den that were to be the loudest voice in the cry for merging Winston and Salem. In other homes, law firms were founded, businesses were formed and new products developed. But as West End reached its golden moment and workmen built homes on the steep sides of Summit hill, the handwriting again appeared on the wall. It was apparent that within the next few years, Winston's growing business district would need room to expand. It could expand only to the west. West End suffered one of its biggest blows when R. J. Reynolds founded his Reynolda in 1908 and shortly afterward moved out. Other leaders began to ponder the move. Some went a long way. R. E. Lasater, W. N. Reynolds and S. Clay Williams moved to the Yadkin River. But most of the others moved to Reynolda, Country Club or Buena Vista. By 1920, West End was beginning to give way to a westward movement. It was apparent that those moving out were going to have to give serious thought to the use of the land they had prized and loved. The decision came in one word: Churches.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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