

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

June, 1991

WEST END BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 1991

The board met at the home of Susan Walter and Walt Ettinger, M.D. Bill Sugg called the meeting to order at 7:30. 23 people were present. Brian Cormier, executive director of the YMCA, was introduced. Mr Cormier attended for the purpose of giving an overview of the present status of the YMCA and to discuss a proposed variance request to the city for parking spaces.

Some of the comments from Mr Cormier:

1. He is opposed to a parking deck being built;
2. Decentralization and "off-loading" to Clemmons, Kernersville and Davie County will decrease numbers now using Central YMCA;
3. There is anticipated zero growth expected at the Central "Y" for the next three years;
4. The Central "Y" hopes to maintain stability and improve quality of programs;
5. Central Branch receives no United Way subsidy--it is 100% self-supporting;
6. He wants to work with the West End in a positive way.
7. YMCA cannot take a political position (i.e. Historic District);
8. In 1972 the West End was not a very desirable neighborhood. YMCA contributed to its improvement.

The YMCA is prepared to request a variance in the best interests of all concerned. (The city has requested that the Y plan to meet the YMCA's peak need. This would require construction of a two-tier parking deck, demolition of adjoining properties, and elimination of existing landscaping to re-configure YMCA's lots to provide

maximum on-site parking). The Y has not officially asked for a variance nor have they negotiated with the city.

Brian stated he would talk with our alderwoman about supporting the Historic District designation.

CRYSTAL TOWERS

Bill Gibson moved to table the inclusion issue of Crystal Towers joining the West End neighborhood. Lea Loftis seconded. Unanimously passed.

GARDEN CLUB

Dottie Wise moved that the Garden Club make application by June 28 deadline for community Appearance Commission Award Competition. Martin Sokoloff seconded and this motion unanimously passed.

TWIN CITY TRACK CLUB 10K RACE

Wanda Merschel moved that the West End Association offer a fair to follow the race on September 7. Becky Sparrow seconded. Unanimously passed.

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

Fourth Street to be blocked off. West Enders are encouraged to save 2 liter bottles. The Zevely House donated two free lunches as prizes for the July 4th competition. For transportation needs this day, call Becky Sparrow, Susan Walter, Missie Vaughan or Tim Nichols.

OCTOBER MINI-HOUSE TOUR

Bill Gibson moved West End Association charge \$1,500 for Vantage West End House Tour. Peggy Matthews seconded. Unanimously passed.

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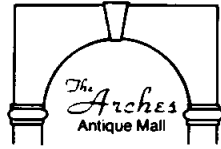
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VARIANCE REQUEST

Bill Gibson moved that the variance request on the Biting House be tabled until Leigh Fultz addresses the Board. Lea Loftis seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

Discussion resumed regarding Mr Cormier's presentation at the beginning.

Glenn Eisenbrandt moved to support the Y's petition for a variance, with certain qualifications, but formally to link our support with the Y's support of our Local Historic District petition. After a lively discussion--during which several members expressed uncertainty as to the strength of the Y's commitment to decentralization as well as to the Y's perception of the latest proposed Historic District regulations--this motion was voted down. Wanda Merschel moved that the dialogue between the Association and the YMCA be continued to clarify certain matters, by means

of another meeting between representatives of the two groups and, hopefully, a written commitment by the Y concerning its intentions. This motion was seconded and passed by a majority of the voters present.

Though by no means unanimous, when this discussion broke up at 11:00 pm, the prevailing sense of the group could be fairly

described as follow: The Association wants to engage in constructive dialogue with the YMCA; we desire to support the Y's articulated plans for improvement of the quality of services at the Central location; we are concerned that the Y document its orally articulated assurances that it is committed to decentralization and does not seek to expand the number of people using the central facility at peak hours; we want the Y formally to document its oral preference for maintaining the status quo insofar as the aesthetics of the location are concerned--no construction of parking decks (even "sightly" ones), no destruction of nearby buildings, no destruction of the lovely landscaping now surrounding the facility; and we want the Y to formally commit itself to supporting the principle of there being a West End Local Historic District (while of course reserving for itself the right to criticize specific regulations of any plan). It is in this spirit that the dialogue continues.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on July 2, at 7:30 pm at Tim Nichols house on West End Blvd.

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NEXT WEST END ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 2, 1991
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