

The West Ender

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

April 1992

**"FIRST" WITHDRAWS ITS PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT;
SPOKESMAN SUGGESTS COMMUNITY-WIDE DIALOGUE;
WEST END ASSOCIATION OFFERS TO PARTICIPATE**

The centerpiece of the April meeting of the West End Association's Board was the announcement that FIRST ("Forsyth Initiative for Residential Self-Help Treatment") had withdrawn its proposed text amendment from the Planning Board's April 9th meeting. The organization's spokesman indicated to a West Ender that FIRST was willing to cease renovation work inside the Dorminy Studios, and he indicated that Mayor Wood would be asked to help establish a broad-based committee to explore the question of how best to meet the needs of organizations like FIRST and residential neighborhoods like the West End. (I assume most of you have read all about this in the Winston-Salem Journal, whether in news articles, editorials, or letters to the editor.)

Following a lively discussion, the Board passed the following Resolution: "We urge the establishment of a community-wide, informed dialogue concerning the issues raised by the FIRST proposal, and we offer ourselves as a constructive participant in this process." (The dissenters felt that we should "insist" on being allowed to participate.)

What does it all mean? (Yes, what follows smacks of editorial comment, not neighborhood news.) Clearly, the West End has demonstrated that, as a neighborhood, it possesses some power and the willingness to exercise it. It is equally clear that the West End generates a lot more power when it engages in aggressive, appropriate coalition-building with other residential neighborhoods. Indeed, for those of us who approve of the FIRST concept but oppose the text amendment, the most heartening aspect to this ongoing struggle is the extent to which successful coalition-building took place across Winston-Salem. At this stage in the process (and, be assured, it is not over with), many of us hope that the concept of "fair process" itself has been vindicated, and the voices of people who live in neighborhoods have been heard. And, yes, some voices might well add, "Now, may we have the humility and the charity to exercise our power wisely."

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!!

The Tuesday, May 5th, regular monthly meeting of your Association has been set for the gazebo in Grace Court, at 7:30.

(And the June 2nd meeting is still scheduled for Ben & Julia Wilson's house, 817 West End Boulevard.)

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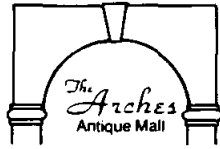
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SO LITTLE TIME, SO MUCH TO ATTEND TO . . .

As you are probably aware, one of the functions of this newsletter is to document the minutes of official meetings of the West End Association (hopefully without boring you to death). In addition to the FIRST affairs described on page one, here are some additional areas of concern in your neighborhood.

March 17th Special Meeting:

Chuck Sams introduced us to "Stream Watch," a program of the North Carolina Division of Water Resources. He asked us to consider joining the effort and adopting part of Peters Creek. The Board expressed support for the concept and agreed to explore the matter when things calmed down.

Stephanie and Charles Lovett -- aware of neighborhood concerns about appropriate improvements to real estate -- informed us that they are planning to build an unobtrusive deck on the back of their house.

The unnamed bar on Burke Street -- Bill Wise reported that the mobile, flashing sign out front is almost certainly illegal, the inside improvements are believed to be in limbo, and it is doubtful the promoters can obtain an ABC permit because the lot is adjacent to a residential zone. (Some sighs of relief were heard throughout the room.)

The rest of that meeting was devoted to various aspects of the FIRST/ Dorminy Studios dispute -- neighborhood coalition building efforts; yard signs (a "private effort" not sponsored by your Association, but actively supported by several of its members, as individuals); contacts between President Merschel and the press; efforts to enlist the support of the Board of Realtors; zoning for existing Delancey Street facilities; and the "Public Meeting" to be held on March 26th.

Editor's note: No minutes were taken at that Public Meeting. But Wendy, the West End Windbag, described it as a "Roman Spectacle." She was amused that "such self-effacing, soft-spoken boys" as Jamie Kaufman and Thorns Craven actually got to hollering at each other "right out in front of God and everybody!" Wendy recalls when those two were just little boys, they used to hang out together after school up at the Andrews Summit Pharmacy, sipping chocolate sodas and eating Necco Wafers. Of course, Wendy does get things a bit confused sometimes, but she's right about one thing: it was a lively meeting.

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* * * * *

More Minutes from April's Regular Monthly Meeting:

Joe Jackson, City Landscape Maestro, gave us a Grace Court update. He showed the Board schematic drawings of proposed landscaping and irrigation, received suggestions from the floor, announced that there would be annual plantings which the West End Garden Club could help with, and let us know that the irrigation plan would cost about \$8,600, which was more than the City has available. The Board passed a motion to pledge \$2,000 from the Barbara Smitherman Fund toward the cost of this system.

Nancy Pleasants, our Alderman, was present to listen to the group's discussion, especially about the FIRST developments. After that topic was worked through (see page one), the Local Historic District effort took center stage. The group agreed to distribute a flyer urging West Enders to attend the final public information meetings on April 23 and/or April 30th. (You got one, didn't you? And you attended, didn't you??) Interwoven with this discussion were membership communication concerns, including expanding the newsletter mailing list to reach all property owners, and using a revitalized block-captain system to reach all renters.

The Board also approved the terms of its newly elected members (too dull to spell out here); it approved a \$100.00 donation from general funds to the YWCA as a thank-you for its contribution of meeting spaces; and it discussed plans for the September "Festival in Grace Court."

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Editor: Bill Gibson -- 724-0776
Business Manager: Bill Wise -- 761-0906
Circulation: Missie Vaughan (724-4579), Carol Wells & Brenda Penny

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