

The West End

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

May, 1994

WEST END ASSOCIATION BOARD CONSIDERS VARIETY OF ISSUES AT MAY MEETING

YMCA AEROBIC STUDIO

The Board met on May 3, 1994, at the home of Peggy Merschel. Wanda Merschel, our President, opened the meeting by introducing Bob Caldwell, Executive Director of the YMCA, and Larry Robbs, the architect for the YMCA's planned new aerobic studio. As you may recall, Bob and Larry attended an earlier meeting of the Association to inform us about their plans for the new studio, which will be located on the Sunset side of the Y, directly above the men's entrance.

Larry brought drawings to illustrate both of the concepts the Y is considering--one was designated the conservative look and the other described as the liberal perspective. While the liberal and conservative labels caused some debate and discussion, the "conservative" alternative retains the boxy motif of the Y, is constructed from glass, and capitalizes on the existing themes. Larry noted that it would be lit at night, projecting warmth, and that a blue canopy would provide color. The "liberal" alternative utilizes roof trusses on the exterior of the building, adding a light and airy feeling. The trusses would be painted, most probably a light blue. The "liberal" approach is also boxy.

The board briefly discussed the drawings, and also spent some time talking about the parking situation at the Y. Bob Caldwell said that the Central YMCA had lost some members to the Kernersville and Clemmons Ys, but that the membership in January was about 6700 members. The Board decided to vote later in the meeting about which version of the aerobics studio they preferred.

NEW BUSINESS ON BURKE STREET

Wanda introduced a guest, Craig Thomas. In case you've been curious about what is going on at the intersection of Burke, Fourth, and First Streets, Ms. Thomas and her partner Danny Hill are renovating the property for a new retail shop, "Memoirs." The shop will handle consignments, antiques, and estate jewelry in addition to teaching classes on refinishing furniture, applying faux finishes, etc. Ms. Thomas emphasized that they want to be good neighbors and members of the neighborhood.

NEW MEMBER ON HISTORIC COMMISSION

Next on the agenda was the fact that Ellen Yarborough's term as our representative to the Historic Commission will be expiring in July. Ellen has asked to be replaced. Since Ellen represented rental property owners, our replacement must represent that same category. Missie Vaughan was nominated and agreed to serve.

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ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT ISSUES

Larry Everhart informed the group about a business on 4 1/2 Street which has requested two variances-- one for parking variances and one to allow a recreational vehicle/motor home to be parked on their lot and to allow a "caretaker" to reside in the motor home. Larry noted that parking has really been becoming an increasing problem in the area. After some discussion about the ownership of the property in question, about the role of the "caretaker," and about the principles of parking variances, the board voted unanimously to oppose both the request for the parking variance and for the motor home/caretaker. (LATE NEWS: John Bills reports that the Zoning Board of Adjustment rejected the requests.)

ALIEN SPACECRAFT LEAVES WEST END FOR NEW TERRITORY

Robin Voiers reported that the light fixture which invaded her home on the day the earth stood still has been replaced with a smaller light, which is still not in compliance with the historic district guidelines, but which is a definite improvement over its predecessor. She plans to persevere with her struggles; we hope to hear a victory report in the near future.

UDO UPDATE

Wanda reported that it now appears that the Planning Board will utilize the RSQ5 zone for the West End (RSQ5 means residential single family with up to a quadriplex being allowed). It appears that the alternative is multi-family zoning. Although the board had mixed feelings about the RSQ5, nobody liked the multi-family zoning. The board voted to support the proposed UDO text to establish the RSQ5 zone for West End.

ODDS & ENDS

Billye Keith Jones distributed some info on the upcoming Festival (see next page) and the Holiday House Tour (Dec. 4). Please call to volunteer.... The playground equipment in Hanes Park is worn out and needs to be replaced.... July 4th celebration is being planned--details later.... One of our local newspapers published an editorial which seemed to clearly define its position on the "reasons" to sacrifice urban neighborhoods in favor of development/institutional expansion.... Maybe a band in Grace Court in June?

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PLAN AHEAD-----SAVE THIS DATE

Saturday, September 10.....The Festival at Grace Court. Let's hope that this year the weather will be exactly like last year. Lots of fun for everyone! We need volunteers in all areas--food preparation, food sales, beer garden helpers, clean up, etc. Whether you have a special skill (e.g., chef, professional beer taster) or not, we can use your help. Call Missie Vaughan to sign up.

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What's on your mind? We would like to hear from you. What would you like to see the West End Association work on? What changes would you like to see? What do you think the Association is doing well? Please send comments/questions/concerns to West End Association, P.O. Box 10055, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27108. We would also like to experiment with a "letters to the editor" feature in the newsletter. If you are interested, please send any letters to the address above, marked "Editor." We hope to hear from lots of members in the upcoming months.

DON'T FORGET THE JUNE 7 MEETING AT GRACE COURT, 7:30 P.M.--HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Editor: Cathy Long--723-3935
Business Manager: Bill Gibson--724-0776
Circulation: Barbara Goldsmith--723-0480

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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- New Member (Less than 1 year residence, free membership) Phone: _____
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- \$5 Senior Citizen or Full-Time Student
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