



**Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2007**

The Monthly meeting was called to order by John Davis and Steffi Langer-Berry read the Minutes from the previous month. Raymond Gambrell moved to approve the minutes as submitted. This was seconded and received unanimous approval by the members in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Westview Christmas Dinner – Scott Smith asked everyone to bring their food items an hour ahead of the party to allow for preparation. A turkey was not yet donated for the occasion and Scott was volunteered to bring the turkey if no one else would. Barbara Chambers read the list of items people volunteered to bring and took down names for additional items.

Street Toppers – Scott informed everyone that the WCO would pay for 2 toppers. Locations are to be determined but are to be placed on prominent corners. He also encouraged neighbors to sponsor a street topper at the intersection near their house and to place their name on a sign-up sheet after the meeting. The toppers would cost approximately \$35 - \$50 depending on the quantity ordered. We hope to have toppers up within the next 3 months or so.

NEW BUSINESS

City Council Members – C.T. Martin attended the meeting and took the opportunity to talk with neighbors. He informed the WCO that he was partnering with most of Westview to address their issues with city council. One concern raised was the abandoned streets and sidewalks dug up by Atlanta Gas and Light's earlier in the year. C.T. assured he would talk with AGL to address the tore up streets and Scott volunteered to walk with someone to show the affected problem areas.

Another concern was the lack of development of the construction of speed breakers/humps on various streets. It was mentioned that the streets may not meet the owner occupation requirements needed and that the issue needed to be looked at differently due to the vacant homes.

A third concern was the Zone 4 police presence. C.T. explained many changes were happening due to constant promotions and retirements. He also explained due to re-zoning part of a crime-ridden Zone 3 was now part of Zone 4 and increased the overall crime rate in our zone. Scott encouraged C.T. about splitting Zone 4 up due to its size and overworked policemen in the area. C.T. informed the neighbors that a re-zoning was scheduled again for 2008.

Additionally C.T. mentioned that there were talks about investing \$8 billion to bring cleaned water from Savannah to Atlanta. Citizens interested in digging wells need to ensure they have the required lot size and permits to do so.

C.T. encouraged neighbors to continue their crime complaints as it was finally having an effect on Mayor Shirley Franklin. He informed us of the recent copper theft from Calvary United Methodist Church and that the city is working on requiring a name registration with police before being able to sell metals.

Councilman Vincent Fort also attended the meeting. He addressed his concern about financing for Grady Hospital and has vowed to fight to get the hospital all the funding and resources it needed to continue to provide its services to our community and an additional 120 counties in Georgia. He wished everyone happy holidays and provided two gift cards for the neighborhood party raffle.

BeltLine – Nia Knowles handed out flyers for The BeltLine Partnership's initiative to get paid volunteers that will help spread the word about the BeltLine. The volunteers would be trained, take a bus tour of the BeltLine area, and then conduct a door-to-door campaign to raise awareness of the project.

NPU-T Representative – The new NPU-T Chairman, Kwabena "Cubby" Nkromo, came to introduce himself to neighbors. NPU-T meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at the Shrine of the Black Madonna, which is open to the public.

Special Use Permit Application – Terry Porter and his *The Gardens of Magnolia Trails* staff gave a presentation about turning the house located at 1438 South Gordon Street into an Assisted Living Facility. A seven-page building plan and a folded brochure was handed to neighbors to review. Terry explained to neighbors that his clients consisted of lawyers and other tax-paying citizens that require extra care but not to the extent provided in a nursing home. He already has two facilities located in DeKalb County that Westview neighbors are welcome to visit for comparison. The facility would house one live-in on-site staff member and have 6 additional rooms to be shared between 12 patients. The lot has an existing parking pad on the side and Terry has poured another driveway on the other side of the property to create a shared driveway with the house located at 1442 South Gordon Street which Terry purchased in the last few years. Terry indicated that none of his clients would likely have cars (transportation is provided by the facility) and that the parking lot would mainly be used by his staff or visitors. Terry says his other two personal care homes are, among others. Both of his existing facilities are VA and United Way approved. APS would send Fulton County residents to the Westview facility. A number of Westview neighbors expressed that they did not wish to have a commercial facility within their residential neighborhood. Other concerns were if the issued special use permit could be transferred for the use of a boarding house in the future, the number of patients compared to the number of rooms, and the lack of an elevator for the special needs patients.

Barbara Chambers made a motion to deny the application. There was no second and the motion was withdrawn. Raymond Collier recommended looking further into the concerns and Scott Smith advised that the city would move on if we don't take any action. Terry said they were scheduled in front of the board for January 3 or 10. Mrs. Dorothy Robinson asked to defer the vote in order to do more research and meet with nearby affected neighbors for input. Barbara seconded the motion. The final vote was 9 in favor, 0 abstain, 0 oppose. Scott added he would take care of a letter of intent to the NPU-T in the meanwhile.

Announcements/ Committee Reports – None.

Community Concerns/Questions – Neighbor Ayana Gabriel from Altoona Place and Matt Bigg, a Reuters reporter (originally from London), introduced themselves.

Scott Smith asked Mrs. Robinson to organize gifts for the firefighters for Saturday.

Mrs. Dorothy Robinson collected \$___ in monthly dues. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Submitted by Steffi Langer-Berry, Assistant Secretary