



**Westview Community Organization  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2008**

The Monthly meeting was opened with a prayer by Raymond Colier. Steffi Langer-Berry passed out Minutes from the Executive Meeting. Deloris Pickens-Crawford passed out the Monthly Minutes and read them out loud. Scott Smith requested one change to the Minutes: The "request to operate this station and sell beer" for the BP Station at Donnelley was a change of ownership, not a new business request. Raymond Colier motioned for the change on the Minutes and Raymond Gambrell seconded the motion. Vote – Yes: 13; No: 0; Abstain: 0

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Street Toppers** – Steffi Langer-Berry again showed the designs for the street toppers and noted that the design might additionally feature "Established 1910". She informed neighbors that there were about 21 sponsored street toppers now and if we can get it up to 35 we would be able to get them for \$35 a piece. Steffi said she would bring the sign-up sheet at the next meeting. John Davis informed that Jaime, Westview's intern from Morehouse, was getting a list of businesses in Westview and would go around asking them to sponsor a street topper.

**1438 South Gordon Special Use Permit** – Scott Smith informed neighbors that the denial for Terry Porter's special use permit was a success. After the WCO voted to deny, the NPU-T voted to deny the application as well. Several neighbors came to support the neighborhood's decision at the hearing and the City denied the special use permit.

**Trees Atlanta Planting** – Scott Smith said that about 35 volunteers showed up to plant redbuds, dogwoods and a number of other trees. John Davis said trees in front of Gretchen Rohr's house had been broken and Scott said that unfortunately a mentally ill man had been twisting the trees at their base, which is why they were replaced since they had been planted in February 2007. Unfortunately the man has since come back and broken about four of the newly planted trees as well.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Joy Barnes/Dept. of Watershed Management** – Joy Barnes (404.564.3637 ext. 2002) spoke about the SSES (Sewer System Evaluation Survey)/Rehab Program coming to Westview. The purpose of the program is to survey every single mile of pipes in the city for defects, blockages, and capacity problems through various techniques, with the most common one being the smoke test. She indicated people on the first batch of streets should expect to be notified via automated phone messages, flyers, or door hangers of tests occurring on their street so they don't have to be alarmed when they see smoke. Work in the neighborhood was due to start as early as Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Gwen Cain from Morehouse asked about the specifics of the makeup of the smoke. Joy did not know the specific answer and said Lorenzo Hall should be the person to contact about these types of questions. Additionally Joy encouraged everyone to vote Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> on MOST (Municipal Option Sales Tax), the renewal of the 1-cent sales tax that helps to pay for the city's pipe improvements and will keep water bills down. She handed out several informational sheets for neighbors to take home. Scott Smith additionally informed everyone that rebates up to \$200.00 could be received if neighbors installed new 1.26 – 1.8 gpf approved toilets. The program requires the toilets to be newer than 1993; the rebate would be for a maximum of 2 toilets per household; the installation has to be after September 28, 2007. (More info online at: <http://www.northgeorgiawater.com/html/315.htm>.)

**Gwen Burson/Park Pride** – Gwen Burson (Office: 404.817.7981, Cell: 404.583.9973) told neighbors that even though the City of Atlanta maintains city parks, Park Pride encourages communities to adopt parks and gardens. She also said community grants are available to assist neighborhoods to take care of their parks. The grants are available twice a year and the applications need to come through the NPU's. Mark Malaguerra asked if the WCO's Beautification Committee could apply for such grants and Gwen said they can't apply on their own, they would need to go through the

NPU. Gwen said the two types of grants available are the Community Grant for up to \$20,000, or the Micro Grant for up to \$1,000. Mark asked about the application process and Gwen said we would apply through Park Pride. She brought Park Pride's newsletter with more information. (Information and applications are also available at <http://www.parkpride.org/woodruff.html>.) Park Pride also volunteered to get together with the Beautification Committee to talk to and advise about park visions and development. Additionally she encouraged residents to attend Park Pride's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Parks & Greenspace Conference on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. One NPU representative would be able to represent the NPU for free; otherwise the entry is \$80.00.

Scott Smith asked about the status of the plans for the open space between North and South Olympian since the city owned part of it and was supposed to turn it into a park. Gwen said she would look into the status of this and report back to the Beautification Committee. At this point Scott also informed neighbors that the first construction of the BeltLine had begun by White Street in West End. That particular part of the project had to be first so that funding would not expire. By the end of 2008 the 1.7 miles of green space should be completed and Enota Park would also be turned into a bigger park. Ayana Gabriel chimed in and said neighbors from nearby streets had participated in a park plan about a year ago.

**Development Committee** – Scott Smith advised for a Development Committee to be established. Due to a recent email from Mary Norwood asking Westview to participate in the Atlanta Home Show Scott talked to Kenny Ellsworth who was interested in chairing the committee. Kenny introduced himself to neighbors, saying he would hope to get to know everyone better, and among other things expressed his interest in getting more input on the BeltLine and its involvement in the community as part of the Development Committee. Mark Malaguerra motioned to name Kenny Chair of the Development Committee and Dorothy Robinson seconded the motion.

Vote – Yes: 20; No: 0; Abstain: 1

**Bylaws** – Since there have been questions about the Bylaws, Scott has run copies of the 2001 Bylaws for neighbors to keep. Deloris Pickens-Crawford mentioned she had about 20 extra copies of the 2005 Bylaws at home. Rather than handing out the 2001 version Scott said he would update it to the 2005 version and would bring copies to the next meeting. It was asked if we should make any amendments before redistributing the new ones and Scott said we would need to pass out the existing ones at the next meeting before being able to make any amendments. Once the old ones are viewed by everyone changes can be made.

**Announcements/Committee Reports** – Scott Smith informed everyone of the upcoming trash pickup date. Neighbors should have received a flyer informing them of the change. Raymond Gambrell indicated he had received three different flyers, some of which indicated the new day being Monday, another indicating Friday. Scott suggested calling them to verify the date if neighbors had received conflicting information.

Deloris Pickens-Crawford encouraged neighbors to sign up for the upcoming National Clean-Up Day. A date in March, April, or May was to be determined and neighbors would be informed of the specific day once the Beautification Committee has picked it.

Owners of the new Khe Khe's Café at 1405 Ralph David Abernathy, Martha and LaWanda, stopped by to introduce themselves to the community. Various neighbors indicated that they had already tried the Soulfood cooking and said it was very good.

Ayana Gabriel said BeltLine volunteers would be coming around the Westview neighborhood this weekend to provide information about the project. Additionally she said meetings for the Westview study group would start soon.

Gwen Cain from Morehouse said Morehouse will host a NPU-T Retreat on Friday from 6:30 – 9:30 and Saturday most of the day at the Leadership Center. She encouraged John Davis to attend a meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 – 1:00 to provide neighborhood exposure to students.

Mark Malaguerra informed everyone that a neighbor had been broken into today, but due to other neighbors watching and calling 911 the criminals were apprehended and positively IDed. He encouraged everyone to get to know their neighbors better and establish good communication so that we can continue to work together towards a better neighborhood.

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

*Submitted by Steffi Langer-Berry, Assistant Secretary*