



**Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by John Davis at 7:00pm. The invocation was presented by Raymond Gambrell.

After the community was asked to scan through the February Minutes Raymond Gambrell motioned to approve the Minutes with the understanding that last month's dues collection would be recorded once the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer would confirm the amounts. Scott Smith seconded the motion. Vote – Yes: 12; No: 0; Abstain: 0

GUEST SPEAKER

NPU-T Chairperson Kwabena Nkromo – Kwabena thanked for having him out for the second time since he has become Chairperson. For members that are not aware what the Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) is Scott Smith asked Kwabena to give a brief summary.

After explaining the NPU system Kwabena informed members of the successful NPU-T Retreat. The Retreat consisted of various members from NPU-T and enabled everyone to get to know one another better. Some of the discussions included Asset Based Community Development, a new philosophy of looking at the glass as half full rather than half empty. Such outlooks help communities emphasize on the positive and how the neighborhoods can use this to improve themselves. Discussions were held about how neighborhoods can take matters into their own hands rather than just depend on outside sources. Additionally they are looking at ways to help reduce the housing stock and how other communities have dealt with similar problems.

Kwabena informed of an initiative especially dear to him: the Urban Agriculture project. The initiative would map plots of open land or otherwise useable land where agriculture can be planted within NPU-T. The long-term plan is to grow enough agriculture to supply the community.

Finally he asked the WCO to vote on the provided NPU-T 2008 Policy Agenda handout that show the community's plans and outlook and will be forwarded on to the city.

Scott Smith motioned to support the NPU-T 2008 Policy Agenda. Steffi Langer-Berry seconded the motion. Vote – Yes: 14; No: 1; Abstain: 0

OLD BUSINESS

Street Toppers – Steffi Langer-Berry presented the two design options for the street toppers and asked neighbors to vote on their favorite design. Additionally Steffi asked neighbors to bring their \$35.00 to next month's neighborhood meeting so that the toppers can be ordered. She also informed that a new street sign would be erected at the western side of the Langhorn/Lucile intersection. Several neighbors argued that the "Established 1910" part was incorrect on the sign. It was explained that the WCO's establishing in 1974 had nothing to do with the neighborhood's establishing in 1910 and that the street topper was not a WCO sign, but rather a sign for the Westview community as a whole, including the support from other neighborhood organizations, such as It's Our Neighborhood.

16 members voted in favor of the rounded street topper, 6 members voted in favor of the non-rounded street topper. The votes will be taken into consideration along with the other organizations'.

Solid Waste Disposal – Scott Smith asked if any neighbors had problems with their trash pick-up due to Monday's pickup day change. Laura Spencer from Olympian Way said her recycling bin was not picked up. Scott suggested calling to inform them of their mistake. Additionally Scott told neighbors still waiting for the black recycling bin that personal containers can be used in place until the city ones are delivered.

NEW BUSINESS

Recent Home Burglaries – Scott Smith informed neighbors that there has been a recent increase in home break-ins and burglaries. If anyone sees anything suspicious he encouraged to immediately call 911. Mark Malaguerra explained the tactics of the youths committing the crimes: They ring the door bell to determine if someone is home. Another method is to throw a heavy object into a window and hide in the bushes to see if anything happens; if not they proceed to break in. The criminals have mainly been interested in smaller objects such as digital cameras, video game systems, smaller flat screen TVs, etc.

BeltLine Trail Update/PATH Foundation – Pete Peligrini and Jonathan from the PATH Foundation came to speak to neighbors about the BeltLine/PATH Trail that will be built through Westview. They explained they are a foundation raising money to built paths across the Metro and have done projects such as the Silver Comet Trail and the Arabian Mountain Trail. They apologized that they had only gone to the West End for previous presentations.

The Westview Trail has been in the works for over 10 years. The Westview section will consist of 10-foot and 12-foot wide paths and include illumination, signs, and benches. Since this SW section is the Model Mile they want to set the bar high. Additionally the empty lots by Enota Place will be turned into a large park within the next 5 years. Since only non-improved lots will be used no neighbors will be displaced. Another part of the project will be to connect various trails and parks in the vicinity. The money for the Westview section will expire by June 30th, therefore groundbreaking will take place before that time. The plans include a reconfiguring and rebuilding of the large Langhorn/RDA/Muse/White/Cascade intersection and will make it more pedestrian-friendly. The sculpture in Gordon-White Park will remain with two additional pieces being added when the park is restructured.

At 8:00pm Mark Malaguerra motioned to extend the meeting until 8:10pm.

Mark Malaguerra motioned to give a favorable vote for PATH's proposed trail. Kenneth Ellsworth seconded the motion. Vote – Yes: 20; No: 0; Abstain: 0

Updating Member Roster – Scott Smith said the WCO member roster was out of date and passed around sheets asking everyone to update their information.

Announcements – Jaime Davis, WCO's Morehouse intern, informed members of the successful NPU-T Retreat and said they now have a better vision of what issues to tackle in the neighborhood.

Committee Reports – The Beautification Committee announced they wrote Park Pride a letter asking to remove two trees from South Gordon Park. The trees have been damaged beyond saving. It was also announced that the official Cleanup Day was set for May 24th from 9:00am – 1:00pm and would focus on South Gordon Street. Volunteers would also be welcome to clean up other streets.

The Development Committee announced Westview's partaking in the upcoming Atlanta Home Show from March 13-16. Councilwoman Mary Norwood asked Westview to participate as it would raise awareness of the neighborhood and help with the overall improvement. Additionally it would help distinguish us from other neighborhoods such as West End, which we are often confused for.

Announcements – Laura Spencer raised awareness that the intersection of Marler and Olympian had become a dumping ground for old tires.

Melanie Willingham-Jaggers from It's Our Neighborhood introduced herself and informed that their organization would take a more active role in future WCO meetings.

Martha Robinson collected \$37.00 in monthly dues. Raymond Gambrell adjourned the meeting with a prayer at 8:10pm.

Submitted by Steffi Langer-Berry, Assistant Secretary