



**Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by John Davis at 7:05pm. There was a moment of silence.

Members were asked to scan through the March Minutes. Charles Orr motioned to approve the Minutes. Scott Smith seconded the motion. Vote – Yes: 9; No: 0; Abstain: 0

OLD BUSINESS

Street Toppers – Steffi Langer-Berry said everyone who had agreed to sponsor a street topper should have brought their money to the meeting. Scott Smith rehashed info about the street toppers.

Great American Clean-Up – May 24th from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Contact Gerri Tweedy or Deloris Pickens-Crawford (Beautification Committee) to volunteer. The clean-up mainly happens around members streets so anyone further away should volunteer to help with their section.

Atlanta Home Show Report – Scott Smith reminded the community that the tornado hit the World Congress Center where the Home Show was taking place, canceling the show after Friday evening. The banner, bookmarks and a Testimonials book created for the Home Show can be reused for other purposes so the money has not been completely lost as a result. Despite the Home Show being cut short Scott said he felt the days we were represented had been useful and successful.

Home Burglaries – Burglaries are still taking place. Scott SMith encouraged neighbors to keep and eye on teenagers and young people as that age group has been responsible for the majority of the break-ins. He also reminded that this week is spring break so to be extra aware. He encouraged neighbors to be proactive and call 911 whenever seeing suspicious activity – you could prevent a neighbor being burglarized.

NEW BUSINESS

Trees Atlanta Planting (Beltline Arboretum) – The Trees Atlanta planting was rescheduled from the previous weekend to Saturday, April 12th from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Scott Smith handed out informational letters and a volunteer sign-up sheet.

Community Volunteerism – Scott Smith encouraged everyone to tally the hours they have spent on work for the neighborhood. He had put in approx. 30 hours. How can you help – street cleaning, CourtWatch, Home Show, etc. He reminded that the hours of putting work into the community is as important as attending the WCO meeting. If everyone can put in a few hours of work (and see how many hours you can tally up) we should see significant improvements by the end of the year.

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 5th. The event is about public safety and will touch on subjects such as awareness of speeding. Scott Smith reminded members that safety makes southwest Atlanta look bad and that all the residents know that it's not as bad as the news may make it look, but non-residents may not. That is why it's important for Westview to address safety issues. Denny's Super Save has volunteered use of their parking lot. Details to be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. Member suggestions would be helpful.

Announcements – Michelle Greene on West Ontario has become a proud grandmother of a baby girl.

Unfortunately we have also lost a community member: Willie Mae Reynolds. John Davis will organize a card for the family.

We have a number of new neighbors: Abigail and Terrance on West Ontario and Ronald and Octavia on South Gordon.

Ayana Gabriel informed neighbors of West End's Tour of Homes and May Day Celebration. The event will be kicked off on Friday May 2nd with jazz singer Theresa Hightower at the Wren's Nest from 7:00pm – 10:00pm. Tickets are \$25/person, though Westview is encouraged to buy a whole table of 10 for \$250. The Tour of Homes will take place Saturday, May 3rd and Sunday, May 4th for \$15. The tour consists of homeowners that have resided in West End 30 years to 1 month. Ayana said she was excited to help West End this year so she could get ideas so that Westview can do one next year too.

Scott Smith introduced Westview resident Aston Thompson as the new NPU-T Zoning and Land Use chair person. Aston said he lives on South Gordon and as chair will help determine what comes into the community. He inspects sites and reports back if he deems them usable for the application. For comments or to join the committee Aston can be reached at (678) 791-5517 or aston_thompson@playsgallery.com.

Many members of It's Our Neighborhood (ION) joined the WCO at their meeting and the invitation is open for WCO members to attend ION's meetings occurring on the last Monday of the month at 7:00pm at Fire Station #17 (1489 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd.).

Scott Smith has created a Westview Yahoo Group. Such a group has worked well for the Development Committee and Scott wanted a group where minutes, agendas and other information can be emailed.

Tonyel Stewart from ION informed WCO members that they are working on a neighborhood BBQ and want WCO members to help organize it. The BBQ's purpose is for neighbors to get to know one another better, as well as an opportunity to invite authorities to get to know neighbors. The SW area has a bad stigma and is known not to respond well to authorities – in turn this party should show that we have a great community and we want to be better neighbors to Zone 4 Police. The tentative date is May 3rd at Ontario Park. John Davis said WCO would discuss at Executive Committee Meeting.

It was asked why the trees were cut at the South Gordon/RDA triangle. Scott Smith informed GA Power had crippled the trees beyond saving. Trees Atlanta will replant two shorter trees.

John Davis had asked Evelyn Battle and Selery Heard to head a Membership Committee. Neither was willing to take on the task. Laura Spencer, Lori Phillips and Octavia expressed interest in the job.

Christy Wicker asked if a committee was in touch with sanitation as public trash receptacles weren't being emptied. A committee would need to claim responsibility for such tasks in the future.

Scott Smith said it was more and more apparent that judges don't punish code violations when no one from the community shows up in court. We need people to show up; court dates are generally Monday and Friday. Scott will make sure to mention future addresses and offenses. In addition 10-15 code enforcement officers will be eliminated this summer due to budget cuts. Please call/write our city council members if you want your concern about this to be heard.

A motion was made to extend the meeting. Vote – Yes: 9; No: 0; Abstain: 0

Community Prosecutor LaDawn Blackett-Jones introduced herself as our liaison for Zone 4. Part of her job is to let judges know when some cases are very important for communities. She is heading the CourtWatch program where neighbors show they care about cases that affect their community. 1 - 2 people will make a huge difference; no speaking is required. She's also working on closing drug houses and placing officers in them. If neighbors suspect any properties they should contact her and they will be checked out within a week. DA Howard is working on funding for a Burglary Task Force that will supply dummy cars, video cameras, etc. She went on to answer various other neighbor's questions and explained various processes of the crime system. Contact LaDawn at (404) 699-5294.

No monthly dues were collected.

Submitted by Steffi Langer-Berry, Assistant Secretary