



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

The meeting was called to order by John Davis at 7:00pm. Members were asked to scan through the June Minutes and Executive Minutes. Raymond Gambrell opened the meeting with a prayer. Raymond Gambrell motioned to approve the Minutes. Steffi Langer-Berry seconded the motion. Vote – Yes: 15; No: 0; Abstain: 0

OLD BUSINESS

Neighborhood BBQ Recap – Patrick Berry reported that the June 21st BBQ at Ontario Park was a success. Neighbors, such as Tonyel Stewart and Andrew Park, had worked very hard to make the event happen. Thanks to generous food and money donations there was plenty to eat and toys for kids to play with. Police came to block off the streets and join neighbors, as did firefighters who also brought the fire truck for the kids and chairs for neighbors to sit on.

National Night Out – John Davis reminded people about National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5th from 6:00 – 8:00pm in Denny's parking lot. He asked neighbors to donate food items such as hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, drinks, etc. The sign-up sheet was passed around. He reported a big banner would be hung up to display a week or so in advance. John will coordinate with Patrick Berry to make flyers for everyone to pass out to their neighbors.

House Proud Referrals – Jonathan Kidwell came back out to let neighbors know that their program is capable of still helping out a few more neighbors in Westview. They are already helping various neighbors with no cost home repairs. The applicant must be at least 60 years old and not have an income over \$39,850.00.

NEW BUSINESS

Back to School Project – On August 23rd from 10:00am – 2:00pm School supplies will be collected on the grounds behind the J.C. Harris building. People are encouraged to donate paper, pencils, etc.

GUEST SPEAKER

Atlanta Watershed Management – William Horton (404-589-2674) brought materials about water rate increases. Despite the February renewal of the penny tax to prevent higher water bills there will be a 27.5% rate increase. Additional increases will follow every year for the next four years. Mr. Horton also confirmed Patrick Berry's question that the rate increase was partially due to citizen's following the water conservation rules – in turn by obeying the rules they are penalized because the Watershed Department is not making the money needed to support themselves. The water prices will not go back down when the water drought is over. Evelyn Battle questioned why Westview did not get any pipe upgrades like other areas of town. Mr. Horton explained the SSES Program was planned some 10 years ago about which areas needed to be addressed first. Carol Cornelius observed water main replacements on Willard Avenue some years ago and was wondering if the water mains would be replaced everywhere so that citizens get decent water pressure. Mr. Horton said water pipes should be replaced within the next few years and should result in better water pressure. He advised the Watershed Department's project plans and maps could be found on their website (www.atlantawatershed.org) and he would bring some to next month's meeting. Deloris Pickens-Crawford asked if this project included sewer separations as some of these older homes have connected sewer lines. Mr. Horton said the City has nothing to do with shared lines and it is the citizen's responsibility to get them separated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification Committee – Deloris Pickens-Crawford reported that AGL had torn up one of the smaller traffic islands on South Gordon Street. She tried to rescue the plants and put them back in soil. AGL told her this should be the only time they were working on that section. Neighbors complained that AGL had torn up many sections of the neighborhood and Patrick Berry said he had an AGL contact's phone number if people wanted to call to complain. Another complaint was that the stop sign at East Ontario and Stokes Avenues had been knocked over. Patrick Berry volunteered to call to get the sign put back up.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

Lillie Grady from the Olympians asked if there were still plans to turn the section between North and South Olympian into park space. Some years ago several neighbors had spoken with C.T. Martin and other city members about this. Follow-up phone calls with various departments have remained unanswered. John Davis raised concerns that children were playing in the street rather than that section of land. It was responded that if children played in the open area they would be away from parental supervision. Patrick Berry commented that tax records indicated some, but not all of the land belonged to the City of Atlanta and he was concerned that due to the current debt the park project would probably not move forward at this point in time.

A neighbor from Stokes Avenue raised concerns about 518 East Ontario Avenue, which is overgrown with grass. Neighbors encouraged to call the Bureau of Code Compliance (404-330-6190) and additionally inform Scott Smith, Westview's Code Enforcement Committee.

Evelyn Battle asked what the stipulations of politician's signs on properties were. John Davis encouraged removing the signs since the politician's needed owner's permission and the signs are illegally placed on vacant properties.

Various neighbors said that a Westwood Avenue address had suspicious activity taking place mainly on weekends. It was guessed that 100-150 people will attend parties that go as late as 3:00am. Rumors indicate a stripper pole is at the house and people come to use the house as an after-hours club. Neighbors were encouraged to call 911 and the Bureau of Code Compliance (due to zoning issues). The conclusion was the more people would call to complain, the higher chances were to eliminate the problem.

Raymond Gambrell adjourned the meeting with a prayer at 7:55pm.

\$58.00 of monthly dues were collected.

Submitted by Steffi Langer-Berry, Assistant Secretary