



**Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Smith at 7:00pm.

Invocation – The invocation was presented by the Chaplain, Raymond Gambrell.

Approval of the Minutes – Joe Gunby motioned to approve the January meeting minutes. Roslyn Lamb seconded the motion. Vote – Yes: 14, No: 0

OLD BUSINESS

501(c)(3) Update – Nidhi Williams has worked on restating the Articles of Incorporation. Next steps involve filing the restatement with the Secretary of State, receiving the new Certificate, reviewing the WCO's tax documents and the 501(c)(3) with the IRS. A fee is associated with this change.

2010 Block Captains – Chad Carlson has started on a neighborhood watch on Rogers Ave.

Kroger Concerns – Scott Smith and Patrick Berry are scheduled to meet with Kroger on Tuesday, February 2nd to discuss neighborhood concerns.

Community Service Projects – The Calvary UMC food bank is a partnership opportunity for the WCO.

Community Garden – Scott Smith will meet with the owner of vacant property on South Gordon Street to discuss how the community can use the land for gardening. Neighbors interested in participating should contact Scott.

Trees Atlanta/Georgia Power – Georgia Power will not provide funds to replace the trees due to an internal misunderstanding within the company. As a result no trees will be planted via Trees Atlanta in front of Denny's Super Save.

In addition, Georgia Power has completed the pole replacement/setback project. GP has indicated it is the responsibility of the remaining utility companies to remove the old power poles.

NEW BUSINESS

KIPP Strive Academy – David Jernigan, KIPP Metro Atlanta's Executive Director, informed neighbors that KIPP STRIVE has hired a security guard to keep students and staff safe. KIPP has spent \$500,000 in renovations and have raised an additional \$2 million in private donations to further renovate the building. They are hoping to raise enough funds to eventually purchase the building, which they currently have a 15-year lease on.

Raymond Gambrell motioned to support KIPP STRIVE to purchase the building. Mark Malaguerra seconded the motion. Nidhi Williams expressed concern about the property not being available for public use if APS sells it. Clela Winslow informed APS charges \$25/hour to rent building space, even though citizens already pay a 54% school tax.

Vote - Yes: 21, No: 1

Additionally KIPP would like to open a charter high school. They are looking for a building of approx. 750,000 sq. ft. in or near Westview. The application is due in mid-March.

Mark Malaguerra motioned to support KIPP's high school application. Nidhi Williams seconded the motion. Vote – Yes: 21, No: 0

For more info about KIPP and their mission visit www.kippstrive.org.

UCDC/NSP – UCDC has purchased 3 properties: 2 in Ashview Heights and one at 1501 Stokes Avenue in Westview. Architects are working on drawings. Renovation work will start in approx. 3

weeks. Once work has progressed they will host an open house. UCDC's Neighborhood Stabilization Program work is exclusively sold to homeowners.

In 2007 UCDC completed a study that showed which jobs/businesses are needed in this area. They have received an additional business incubator study grant.

UCDC is hosting Economic Development sessions. Tonyel Stewart is representing the WCO. Interested parties can still join the last 2 sessions. Let Scott know if you're interested.

Committee Chairs – Darrick Young (314.435.9088/darrickyong2004@yahoo.com) has volunteered to head the Public Safety Committee with Andrew Jackson as Co-Chair. They will work on recruiting block captains, coordinate National Night Out, and coordinate with local police.

Fund Raising Projects – Please share ideas for fundraising opportunities.

Tree Grants – Each council district is eligible to receive \$10,000 to plant trees on private property, within 25 feet of the street. There is a \$2,000 limit per neighborhood. Kenny Ellsworth volunteered to prepare Westview's grant application.

Calvary UMC Partnership – The Calvary UMC food bank is a partnership opportunity for the WCO.

Mechanicsville & Pittsburgh Gang Activity – "30 Deep" aka the "Blue Jean Bandits", responsible for many of the crimes in Atlanta, live in nearby neighborhoods. Unfortunately many of them are juveniles, whom by law can not be held for longer than 30 days.

BeltLine Study Group – The BeltLine Southwest study group will meet at West Hunter Baptist Church on February 2nd from 6:30-8:30pm.

Trail construction has been taking place along Langhorn Street. A retaining wall is currently being poured. The Langhorn/RDA/White intersection will be reconfigured as part of the project. Patrick Berry will inquire if path lighting is planned. City Council approved \$750m for Quality of Life projects (street pavings, public safety concerns, etc). General Assembly has to pass it for it to take effect.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cleta Winslow – Cleta and the West End Merchants Coalition will host an event at West Hunter Street Baptist Church about stimulus money, retail tax credits, and Dept of Community Affairs programs.

Mayor's Youth Program – The City is working on a summer program to hire APS seniors.

Homebuyers Seminar – Seminar and tour of neighborhoods. Feb 9th Cleta will meet with community leaders to discuss details of the event. Wachovia has agreed to sponsor the tour bus.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee – A Westview Master Plan workshop is planned for May. Details TBA.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

Section8 – A neighbor expressed concern about the density of Section8 properties in the neighborhood. Darrick Young is on the Landlord Advisory Board and they are attempting to work on reducing the concentrated pockets.

Code Enforcement – Houses are only allowed to be boarded up for 6 months. A "time stamp" is required to start the 6 month countdown.

Dues - \$5 per family per month, or \$2 for seniors. Dues can be also be paid by credit card at www.westviewatlanta.com.

\$49.00 of dues were collected by Treasurer Tonyel Stewart.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted by Steffi Langer-Berry, Secretary