

# WEST SALEM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## MEETING MINUTES

*Tuesday 1 February 2005*

### *Welcome*

Patricia Olmstead called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were 30 people in attendance. Dan Houston, vice president was unable to attend. Steven Shafer, secretary, Kay Everhart, treasurer, and Patricia Olmstead, president, were in attendance.

### *Treasury Report*

The Treasurer report reflected a balance on the first of January of roughly \$390. Checks written were \$219.05 and deposits of nearly \$439.62 came in. The balance at the end of the month was \$617.07. This report will be included in the minutes prior to the meeting to save on time during the meeting.

### *Old Business*

- Board of Advisors – The five members of the Board of Advisors (formerly board of trustees) were seconded and approved. They are Sarah Carter, Irma Jackson, Ellen Hendrix, Chulhi Choi, Del Perry.
- Ruff Store – Per the agreement between, WSNA and Piedmont Baptist College, the neighborhood association is to cover the costs and process of moving and restoring the store. The College will have to get approval from their board of directors, but they are willing to help provide location for the store. They are willing to take it. Judy asked for moving costs and has the estimate of \$18,000 to \$22,500. We would need to raise that money to move the store.
- Winston-Salem Neighborhood Alliance – Bobby King reported on the tree ordinance. The planning board has provided a loophole. Developers can clear-cut the property before applying for a permit. No date has been established at this time to vote on this issue. The neighborhood is drafting a letter to send in support of this order (UDO 122). As soon as we know of the date of the meeting for this, we will let neighbors know. The efforts to revive the public access channel for the city are not well at this time. The problem is financing the operations of \$125-150,000 per year.
- Gateway - Dennis Wiggins talked about art involvement. If anyone is interested in being involved, please let Dennis know.
- Operation Impact – Dennis Wiggins reported. The next meeting is in March. They are now addressing the whole city instead of just the West Salem and Waughtown/Southside areas.
- WOSHI (West of Salem Housing Initiative) - We discussed the housing concerns in the neighborhood. The goals of WOSHi are: (1) Increase home ownership in West Salem. (2) Hold landlords accountable. (3) Enhance historical housing stock. (4) Assist homebuyers with finding finance options. (5) Apply for a CDC to help with financing our goals. With all the attention on the Gateway project, more investors are coming in to the neighborhood. We need to hold these investors responsible for their properties and who they put in their properties. And WOSHi is committed to helping them find good renters.

- The creation of an investment was discussed, with a focus on 511 South Green Street, which is being foreclosed. Those interested in being involved in this group were asked to stay after the meeting to talk with Del Perry, who lives next door, at 509 South Green Street. The home is an historic 19<sup>th</sup> century home.
- UDO – 96, an ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinances regarding rooming or boarding houses and the definition of family, give us a little more leverage to do this. You can find a summary of UDO96 on our website ([www.westsalemneighborhood.org](http://www.westsalemneighborhood.org)) right now, and later we'll have the full UDO96 on the site.

### *New Business*

- Lynda Venable from the Housing was there to speak for Rita Sides who was unable to attend. Rita has been our inspections contact for a long time, but she is retiring at the end of this month. Ola Brown is filling in for Rita at this time. Lynda was there to get a list of our property concerns for her department. A number of neighbors gave her addresses of properties that require inspection.
- Officer Steve Osborne was invited to speak to the group. He is a member of the Foot Patrol that covers an area from MLK Blvd. to Peter's Creek Parkway. The biggest problem in our neighborhood is the street level narcotics. His group is not a call response group; their main focus is on problem solving. There was a situation where they caught some folks actually stealing some things out of a van. The fugitives tried to run down the officers. Pictures of three known dealers were provided to the neighborhood: Jason Phifer, Judy Bowles, and Dennis Bowles. Jason was caught with \$80,000 worth of stolen property, arrested, and released on \$1,500 Bond. The Bowles currently have outstanding warrants for their arrest, if you see them, call 911 and call Officer Osborne. (773.7843, ext. 7238).
  - Judy asked what we should do if we know drug issues are happening. We were told to call the police. Please give your name, but ask that it not be sent on the radio. The dispatcher can have the police call you back. Be as specific as possible for what they look like and what they are wearing. A good indicator is a lot of multi-racial foot traffic.
  - The rest of the meeting was involved in discussion with Steve Osborne. His number for contact is 773.7843, x 7238.
  - Thank you, Officer Osborne, for a great conversation.
- Due to the length of time for Officer Osborne, the rest of the agenda was tabled to next meeting. Patricia asked everyone to read the constitution and bylaws. We will call for approval at the next meeting.
- Donation Box was passed and there was over \$50 was taken up.
- We also sold West Salem T-Shirts and sweatshirts; amount earned to be announced next month.
- We passed around sign up sheets to get volunteers for the Historic Committee, Music in the Park – 2005, and Green Street Supper, May 18. We'll pass these sheets again at the March meeting and get leaders for each committee.

### *For next time*

The following items were put down for the next meeting.

- National Historic District Celebration
- Green Street Supper in May
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Neighborhood Clean up
- Follow up on Non-Profit Status

*Announcements were on the agenda for the following*

- Community Knowledge Center at Green Street Church
- West Salem Garden Club meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month (incorrectly announced as 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)
- Green Street UMC - \$1 dinners – Every Wednesday – Come Dine with your Neighbors

Adjourned 8:15 PM