

# WEST SALEM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## MEETING MINUTES

*Tuesday 3 May 2005*

### *Welcome*

Patricia Olmstead called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. There were 15 people in attendance. Patricia Olmstead, president and Del Perry, vice president were in attendance.

### *Treasury Report*

The Treasurer was not present and no report was given. There was \$50.79 collected when we passed the hat.

### *Old Business*

- Signage for the historic designation is in work. Progress is slow. A means of accelerating the process will be addressed.
- The West Salem Neighborhood Association will sponsor Green Street Church Wednesday Night Welcome Table on May 18. Hot dogs will be served in Granville Park. There is a committee of volunteers to help with this event. Anyone else who would like to help, please call Patricia Olmstead, 725.6771.
- The first Music in the Park for the year will be announced by Patricia. Due to the absence of volunteers, Patricia will assume responsibility for Music in the Park.
- Soccer Camp on the field located at the Green Street and Apple Street has been very successful. The last four sessions have included over 20 very diverse players ranging in age from six to 11. Send kids on your block out to participate on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. If the success continues, a source has been found to furnish colored shirts to permit the team to play in separate practice groups. Help in coaching and teaching the players from anyone will be appreciated.
- No success has occurred in diversifying the WSNA meetings – that is getting representation from all parts of the neighborhood. Invitees do not show up. Personal invitation does not appear to be a viable method of achieving diversity. Block representatives have been mentioned as a potential resource for aiding in this goal. Block representatives would represent all geographical areas of the neighborhood and could take some responsibility for bringing more members to the meetings. A helpful suggestion was also made to include announcements and information in the newsletter in Spanish. Another good idea was to include a questionnaire in the newsletter to generate more interest and response and to learn just what the majority of neighbors would like to see being done and in which to participate..
- The Community Garden at Bank and Green Streets is progressing well. The garden area has been plowed. Neighbor Jeremy Murray, volunteered his time and Bobcat to move the mulch and compost evenly over the plowed areas. The NC Extension Center has agreed to till the property. Dennis has constructed a teepee to be placed on a plot to grow gourds, cucumbers, squash, beans and other running vegetables. This will be very unique and attractive addition to the garden.
- The remaining garden requirements include selecting plots, choosing plants (some will be provided by the Extension Center, fertilizer as required, planting, watering, weeding and, best of all, harvesting.
- Barry Carlton has over 2000 tomato plants for sale. Money earned for those purchased for use in the Community Garden will be donated to the West Salem Neighborhood Association.
- Five neighborhood gardeners have agreed to be responsible for plots and six workers have agreed to work to make the garden a success (that means WEEDING!). It is possible that some grant money will be available if we are able to make the garden a diverse project. A flower garden will be added at the corner intersection to provide additional beauty to the location.

- At this time the response for the community auction has not been encouraging. Approximately one fifth of the items required to hold a successful auction have been received. There are no significant items included in the donations. An auction ad must be placed by Thursday, May 5 for the Sunday newspaper to draw a buyer crowd. With no items to sell and no buyers to purchase, there cannot be a successful auction. A decision will be made by Thursday whether to hold the auction or revert to a yard sale.
- The WSNA has agreed not to oppose the demolition of the Ruff Store and has received permission to collect brick from the store at the time it is taken down. Beau Dancy has also agreed to contribute \$300 to the WSNA and \$200 to the Garden Club. Del Perry will write a letter to Beau thanking him for giving us time to pursue the matter of moving the store and also confirming his gifts.

#### *New Business*

- Allegra Strohman reported that residents are having trouble with the pick up of recycling materials. Compliance with rules for pick up may be a problem i.e. newspapers in brown paper bags, cardboard tied with string and folded to a certain size, separation of glass and plastic from paper products. There is a phone number on the side of each recycle bin to call for replacement of stolen or broken recycle bins. No corrective action available except compliance with the rules and calling to report the problem and requesting pick up.
- Michael Bricker is publishing a scrapbook for West Salem as a fundraiser. Cost of the book is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Membership in the historic society is \$15 per residence. A form to pre-order the scrapbook was provided to all attendees of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Anyone wanting to order can call Michael Bricker, 750.0402 or see Patricia Olmstead for the form.
- May is Historic Preservation month. Information was available at the meeting on events planned and is also available on the West Salem web site: [www.westsalemneighborhood.org](http://www.westsalemneighborhood.org).
- Ben Wilson, an investor in the neighborhood, was present to discuss his property at 603 West Street. The property is divided into five separate apartments. (sixth mailbox on the front is for Mr. Wilson's utility and tax mail). Occupants must sign a one year lease. Ben expressed an interest in the neighborhood and ensuring that the residents of his house are good neighbors in West Salem. He requires his renters to complete an application with references, and a limited background check is performed.
- West Salem concerns relative to zoning, mail boxes, padlocks, compliance with the UDO and the numbers of people allowing in a house were restated. All property owners are expected to comply with city laws and ordinances and to ensure that their tenants abstain from crime such as, but not limited to, drug use, drug dealing, prostitution, sanitation requirements, etc.
- The Garden of the Week sign has begun to be circulated through the neighborhood. Allegra Strohman started the sign off in the garden of Del and Dee Perry, 503 South Green Street. Currently the sign is located in the garden in the 400 block of Granville Drive. The garden Granville Drive garden is neat, well maintained, with a dense growth of greenery. It is an asset to the appearance of the West Salem neighborhood.
- Nominations for Investor of the Month were presented. Don Marquis had phoned in a nomination for Mark Sanders who owns a room-rental type property at 921 Franklin. It was pointed out that this property has housed people who were a nuisance to the neighbors and it was not supported for Investor of the Month. A second nomination for Investor of the Month, Barry Carlton, gained unanimous approval by neighbors in attendance. Barry was selected for his improvement of several properties within the West Salem neighborhood.

Adjourned 8:20 PM