

# WEST SALEM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## MEETING MINUTES

*Tuesday 4 October 2005*

### *Welcome*

Patricia Olmstead called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. There were 22 people in attendance. Patricia Olmstead, president, Del Perry, vice president, Steven Shafer, secretary, and Kay Everhart, treasurer, was in attendance.

### *Treasury Report*

Kay mentioned that we had about \$620 in our account for activities at this time. We passed the plate. Remember, we are now a 501-3c organization and your check is your receipt, if you wish to use this for tax purposes.

### *Old Business*

- Green Street Supper Patricia reported on the great success of the dinner. There were 15 volunteers to help. There were a lot of participants with plenty of food. Arbor Acres provided the main course. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together.
- 700 Green Street Patricia reported on the status of this problem property. The city is unable to enforce the ordinance until the litigation is over, including the appeals. The owners had appealed once, but were overruled. There will be more to report in November.

### *New Business*

- All were invited to be involved with the Trick or Treat Trail. Please contact Steven Shafer at 721.1049 or [stevenshafer@sprintmail.com](mailto:stevenshafer@sprintmail.com) to add your name to the list. It will be published in the November newsletter, just in time for October 31.
- Molly Light discussed political concerns and why she should be elected as councilperson from the South Ward. Green Street Church is having a political forum for the two candidates on Wednesday, October 26.
- LeeAnn Pegram discussed historical overlays and how they benefit a community. There are 2 designations that are necessary. (1.) National register (we already have this). (2.) Local district. This is a type of zoning district. Although there is a rezoning, it doesn't change zones, but rather they have overlays of design.
- Once a district is adopted Forsyth Historical Committee oversees it. They adopt a set of design review guidelines to see what is allowed (recommended) and not recommended. Not every thing that is done needs to go through this process. There are three types of thing that are done.
  - One: routine maintenance, replacing exactly what you have with stuff – go ahead and do it.
  - Two: minor work. This is done by application, review, and approval by city staff. West End is an example district in our city. MOST of their changes are done as minor work.
  - Three: Major work. This requires the full commission to make changes. Artificial siding, demolition, and additions have to go through this process. West End is in the process of revising their rights.
  - Pursuing a district to adopt local district would have the same boundaries as the National Park Service's National Register.
- Here is the process. The Neighborhood Association decides to request a district. This goes to the Historic Resource Commission. They send out mailing to everyone in the boundaries.

A task force will draft guidelines for the neighborhood. It is made up of a cross-section of the neighborhood, owners, single family, business, and renters, those who are not for the changes. The goal is to have a complete cross-section. Then there are a series of public hearings. The state has to review and comment. Then it goes through another public hearing for the rezoning. City Council makes the ultimate decision.

- Lee Ann then answered a number of questions. Some questions and answers
  - Question: If I live in the boundaries, but do not have a contributing home (circa 1995), do I need to have approval?
    - Answer – yes. Any new construction would have to receive a certificate of appropriateness before construction would begin. However, since the neighborhood is involved in the development of the guidelines, they have control. For example, West End does not get involved with paint colors. They only get involved when the architecture is changing. If you make a change without the approval of the commission, you have a few options. You can request an after-the-fact application. If you do not the city could fine you for failure. They also can make you take the new construction down, if no approval and refuse to file. It is a violation of the zoning ordinance.
- The two biggest challenges with this are artificial siding and replacement windows. In no way are you discouraged if there are structural problems to correct. Of these types of requests for the West End, 95% are denied. It is approved if covering over asbestos siding or returning to earlier siding of the correct era.
- Porch infill is generally not recommended due to the structure's visual change. In over 20 years of working with this Lee Ann, there have only been a few times when this process has taken more than a month. Usually is it discussed and decided at the same meeting. The state tries to make demolition difficult, but cannot deny a person the request to demolish his or her own property. There can be a 365-day stay to give time to come up with a viable solution other than demolition.

***Announcements were on the agenda for the following***

**Cards for Neighbors Know of a West Salem neighbor, who is sick, in the hospital, lost a loved one, should be thanked for their good works, or just needs to be remembered? Call Joann Reed, 201.3444, and she'll send a card from WSNA.**

**Upcoming Neighborhood Activities**

1. **West Salem Garden Club NO MEETING THIS MONTH.**
2. **Sunday, October 16, 4 PM – 8 PM Music in the Park – Old Fashion Chicken Stew with Old Time and Blue Grass Music Come to Granville Park with your picnic supper, blankets, and chairs!**
3. **Soup Bread & Broads, October 30, call Patricia Olmstead for details: 725.6771**
4. **Halloween Trick or Treat Trail October 31. See above information if you would like a sign in your yard.**

Adjourned 8:25 PM