

Westville-West Hills Community Management Team
June 9, 2010 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Paul Chambers, Chair, who then made introductions and read the Statement of Purpose.

The Livable City Initiative (LCI) report was given by Elaine Braffman, Neighborhood Specialist. Ms. Braffman reported on alleged illegal dumping at Colby Court, and was questioned regarding the property at 494 Central Avenue by Tim Holohan, et al, with regards to whether this house is a “frat house”. Ms. Braffman stated she would investigate the issue further.

Patricia Dillon, State Representative to CT’s 92nd district, reported on excessive pot holes on Fountain Terrace and a subsequent increase in traffic through that neighborhood due to the Whalley Ave. widening project. Rep. Dillon also spoke about an issue recently brought up again by residents at 345 Fountain Street, aka Fountain Heights, a senior citizen housing complex. This issue pertains to the speed and volume of traffic creating difficulties for seniors to enter or exit the complex safely.

Ms. Braffman announced the Lead Awareness picnic happening soon at Lighthouse Park and the availability of the Mayor’s Monday Message that residents may sign up for via email.

Mr. Chambers brought up the topic of “double poles”, utility poles that are being replaced and have a secondary pole tethered to the new one, of which there are many throughout the district. A discussion ensued about this topic.

Chris Heitman, Executive Director of the Westville Village Renaissance Alliance (WVRA) reported on the organization. He stated that WVRA focuses on economic development in The Village. Mr. Heitman reported on the proposed Dunkin Donuts move/change at Fountain Street, which is being held up due to fire dept. approval, having to do with missing records of the removal of an underground oil tank on the property. Mr. Heitman also reported that the Parks Dept. “limbed up” trees at Edgewood Park, the City will “shave” sidewalks in The Village, WVRA is working to get rid of tow zones on Whalley in The Village, and that the number of in-street pedestrian crossing signs have increase from 4 to 8 in the neighborhood.

Andrew Orefice, Secretary, provided a brief synopsis of the public safety report due to the fact that Lt. Tchakirides could not be present, but who had provided Mr. Orefice with information. Motor vehicle infractions continue to increase due to an increase in motor vehicle patrols, and Edgewood Park is now being patrolled in areas where police cruisers are not normally accessible because the PD secured an off road vehicle from the Parks Department for this purpose. A discussion ensued about Nixle, and it was decided that Nixle was no more effective than the sporadic email messages from Officer Avery.

A short discussion arose regarding alleged drug use at Woodbridge Crossing on Fowler

Street. Tom Lehtonen, Alderman to Ward 27, said he would look into it, and Mr. Orefice offered to get the work to Lt. Tchakirides.

A short discussion arose about how police officers should all be educated on the purpose and usefulness of CMT meetings so they can recommend it to citizens with concerns.

Alderman Lehtonen reported that a meeting by the State Dept. of Transportation was forthcoming regarding the Rt. 15 exit 59 ramp construction, and that Mr. Chambers would attend in the stead of Mr. Lehtonen.

It was confirmed by Mr. Chambers, by way of City Hall, that the new trash receptacles would be deployed to the Monday trash routes sometime in July, and that the 96 gallon blue trash bins would be repurposed as recycle bins; old rectangular recycle bins may be recycled or kept for further repurposing.

Mr. Chambers announced that Mike Piscatelli, Director of Traffic and Parking for the City of New Haven, would be present at the July 14, 2010 meeting to discuss traffic issues as they relate to the Whalley widening project, and at Forest Road and Fountain Street.

Meeting was adjourned after 8:00pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrew H. Orefice, Secretary