

WALNUT BEACH ASSOCIATION MEETING: AUGUST 8, 2005

The Walnut Beach Association meeting, held Monday, August 8, 2005, at St. Gabriel Parish Hall, was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Richard Coda. Attendees: 22

MINUTES of the previous meeting (July 11, 2005) were submitted and appear on website www.villageofdevon.com, under a new procedure, dispensing with mailing.

Accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Unavailable but balance estimated to be \$6,500.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- WBA member, Kim Rose, has recently organized the West Shore Neighborhood Assn. to enable the Devon neighborhood to address concerns affecting that neighborhood more readily.
- Attended Devon Day concert. Small crowd – good evening.
- Spoke to Community Development Office (Robert Gregory, prime contact) re: beach revitalization and public access at end of Naugatuck Ave. Plans being developed.
- Meg's Pavilion: graffiti cleaned up. Public works will be responsible for future maintenance. Brian Wynn handicap access covered with sand. Recreation director looking into storage space for wheelchairs. (**NOTE:** Nanci Seltzer said she would check into possible fundraising for storage.)
- Porta-potty: Relocating not possible. It is positioned (sidewalk adjacent) to make it handicapped accessible.
- Police contacted re: car parked on Park Ave for past three weeks with flat tire/
- Nettleton Ave: Condition unchanged. No results from Fire Dept.
- Shopping Center: Demolition completed; cleanup in progress. First building (East Broadway) under construction.
- Complaint via e-mail received from member concerning pizza/bar establishment on Naugatuck Ave. (picture also submitted). Boisterous, noisy, foul language from patrons, even after closing hours. Police have been contacted. Member sent letter to mayor. (**NOTE:** President advised members to contact Mike Caro if they run into any problem.) **Report Accepted.**

STANDING COMMITTEES REPORT:

Membership (Prokoski): 2 new memberships added = 38 singles; household (22 x 2) = 44; total 82.

Block Watch (Caro/Coiro): Fishing activity at end of Laurel Avenue – loud and boisterous drinking group of males and females. Police called. They had issued a \$92.00 ticket in violation for having open cans of beer. Tom Coiro said he has contacted the police on several occasions. They have always responded.

Festival 2005 (Coda): Complimented Kim Rose for her excellent handling of the children's area on short notice.

-Wall of Art: Placement of last mural under Jill Dion's chairmanship. Susan Patrick volunteered to take over this project and will contact Jill Dion.

-Entertainment: All went well with the four bands. Five had signed up but one was a "no show".

Pavilion: Not Ready. (**NOTE:** Building was to be built and completed by festival time. Joe Garbus explained construction is delayed because the contractor withdrew, stating they had miscalculated and bid too low.)

-Signage: Placed throughout city.

-Vendors: Total 35. Food vendors Kettle Corn had a "good day"; Smergelino's ran out of food, no restocking.

-Moonwalk in children's area, supervised by Kim Rose – cost \$175.00.

President remarked, "**A good day was had by all**" and thanked all who had helped.

-Festival 2006: Will need a new chairperson. Mary Ann Spangler has volunteered. Richard will remain as Entertainment chairman. Need for volunteers. For all interested in keeping the festival another year, there will be a meeting Sept. 18, 6 PM, place to be announced.

-Firehouse Gallery (Hamill): Exhibiting "**The Human Figure**", Aug 11 to Sept 10; opening reception, Aug 11, 6 to 8 PM.

-Cook Book (Spangler): Report unavailable.

-Grant Funding (Andersen): Report unavailable.

-Aldermanic Liaison (Garbus): Trying to “speed up” the funding process on city/state level to finish incomplete projects. There is a likelihood the association may receive an extra \$500,000. To date, none of the monies has been forthcoming, admittedly due to the time involved in processing. Approved bonding funds go to the city, and it is a committee who decides how and where these funds will be appropriated.

-Revitalization (Andersen): Report unavailable.

-P/Z Liaison (Seltzer): P/Z denied the proposed Naugatuck Ave. construction. Developer Amato, who is appealing, has submitted an alternate plan of 21 units (in place of 28) and NO affordable housing (as opposed to affordable housing). Opponents maintain they objected to density not affordable housing.

-New Membership (Faun): Mentioned possibility of a Farmer’s Market. This might be instrumental in bringing people into the area. President Coda advised this would entail considerable “groundwork”. Mr. Faun stated he would assume the responsibility. Suggestions: Research current farm market owners to determine what is involved. Check with Milford Housing (Anthony Vasiliou, Director) for permission to use site on East Broadway and Viscount Drive. Mr. Faun will investigate and report his findings.

OTHER BUSINESS:

-Date change/Festival: Cathy Hamill recommended that festival date be changed to coincide with sand sculpture event. Joe Garbus commented it would be difficult to plan since the sand sculpture depends on the tide. **(Q)** How long does the event last? **(A)** Approximately 5 – 6 hours, depending on low tide.

Cathy suggested someone inquire of MFAC how to obtain advance information. President Coda noted this would create a change in venue whereby the music—live and free entertainment—might be scheduled for Saturday evening instead.

-Vendors: Suggested hiring 2 instead of 1.

-Motion by Cathy Coda, seconded by Joe Benefico, that proposed meeting date of September 16, 2005, to discuss Festival 2006, be changed to WBA regular meeting date, Monday, September 12, 2005. **VOTED/carried.**

-NOTE: Cathy Hamill will not be with the festival next year.

In reference to the festival, Mike Caro and Joe Benefico added their complimentary remarks to those of President Coda.

OLD BUSINESS:

-Housing Moratorium: Any action?

-Festival: Discussion ongoing.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Award Dinner at Costa Azzura, Sept. 30th - \$40.00.

-P/Z Meetings: Board of Appeals/Tuesday, August 9, 2005 (tomorrow), 7:00 pm, City Hall; Tuesday, August 16, City Hall, 7:30 pm.

-Devon Day last concert, Tuesday, August 23, Municipal Parking Lot; 6:30-9:00

-WBA Minutes: Cathy Coda suggested these be mailed to members who do not have access to the Devon Website. The secretary volunteered to continue phone calls, notifying members of the upcoming meeting.

-Request to have current plans of the shopping center shown at the next meeting (**NOTE:** These should be available at the Economic Development Office.)

ADJOURNED 8:55 P.M. on Motion made by Joe Benefico, seconded by Joe Garbus.

Respectfully submitted:
Elvira Prokoski, Rec. Sec’y

NEXT MEETING: SEPT. 12, 2005
St. Gabriel Parish Hall
7:00 PM
(NOMINATION OF OFFICERS)