

Minutes—West End Park Neighbors Board Meeting, 10 a.m., October 9, 2005

Board members in attendance: Margaret Bean, John Mogan, Patti Polk, Dave Medovich

Our discussion included the following:

- Assessing where we stand as a neighborhood and neighborhood group.
 - What is the rapid redevelopment bringing (good and bad)?
 - Negatives: construction issues such as blasting (damage to foundations/patios), noise (especially late), dust/dirt, sidewalk blockage; wear and tear on the roads and increased traffic; loss of greenery, especially mature trees; some well-maintained older homes have been torn down
 - Positives: some neglected properties have been torn down; some decent or attractive buildings have been built; more residents could mean our neighborhood group has an opportunity to grow
 - How might the purposes/goals of our group change in light of the changes around us?
 - Might be more interest in landscaping and beautification as we attempt to replace lost trees (perhaps in strips between sidewalks and road)—might get help from developers for funding such improvements and might work with Councilman Whitmore to do another amendment to the UDO to toughen the tree replacement requirements
 - Might need a print newsletter to reach the entire neighborhood effectively
 - We need to connect effectively with condo associations
- Planning the next few months of activity and action
 - Neighborhood Clean Up Day (in association with bulk item pick up scheduled for early November)—might make sense to get bulk items moved from alleys to street in time for Sheriff's Dept. pick up. Margaret will contact Beautification to check the date we're scheduled for and make sure it's still a service that's in Metro budget.
 - Celebrating Safe Neighborhoods conference is October 22 from 8-2. Margaret will attend, and others may register as well (register at www.nashville.gov/neighborhoods or call 862-5979). The event consists of several workshops and exhibits as well as lunch and a keynote address by Police Chief Ronal Serpas.
 - Trip to Planning Dept. to view plans for new construction—Margaret will write to Keith Covington to set up meeting.
 - Condominium outreach—we will think about a strategy for informing new condo associations of the neighborhood group; Margaret is working on a directory of condos and property managers.
 - Strategies to work with developers and property owners to work on maintenance issues and cosmetic issues (overgrown grass/shrubs, too bright lights, access to sidewalks, etc.)
 - call the Health Dept. for high grass
 - call Codes for vacant buildings that are not properly boarded up
 - call new developers and construction companies as they begin projects to introduce ourselves and establish a positive working relationship in case there are issues that need to be addressed later
 - call Gianikas about the lighting on the buildings at Long/Parthenon and Acklen Park Drive/440
 - Alley Issue—the new developments on Long should have vehicular access from Long as well as from Belwood Street because the higher volume of traffic is not supported by the existing alley or Belwood (no sidewalks); none of the alleys is wide enough or lit properly for a high volume of traffic so perhaps the alleys should be made one-way; nothing in the UDO prevents curb cuts on Long, and the new developments would require far fewer curb cuts than the properties they are replacing—Margaret will write Keith about the plans for those properties and talk with Traffic and Parking as needed.
 - Legal status of our association—Patti will ask Erik to review our charter and application to become a nonprofit corporation in Tennessee (JR already provided the money for the application fee). That will allow us to get an EIN from the IRS, to open a bank account, and to enter into legal agreements, such as with the bank trust in charge of the green space at West End if we want to do a beautification project. It is also the first step toward becoming a 501(c)(3).

Our next meeting will be at the Planning Dept. to review plans.