

Cool Spring/Tilton Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2011

Attendees: See attached list.

1. Welcome

Meeting chair Clara Zahradnik (President – CS/TNA) welcomed CS/TNA meeting attendees.

2. Announcements

- Neighborhood Clean-up Day – May 7
Neighborhood volunteers cleaned trash from alleys in Van Buren Way and 700 block of 7th St. Residents applauded this effort and thanked the volunteers.
- Wilmington Community Day – May 14
For Wilmington Community Day, CS/TNA resident volunteers are needed to plant sweet potato vines in street planters and perennials in Cool Spring Park at 10th and Jackson Streets. Planting will take place at 9-11 a.m. at 10th and Jackson Streets.
- Reimbursement to Heather Hook
A motion was made to reimburse Heather Hook for \$85.00 for out-of-pocket expenses for the spring, 2011 University and Whist Club mixer.
In favor: All
Opposed: None
Motion passed.
- Grant from Sammy Prado
A motion was made to obtain a \$250.00 grant from Councilman Sammy Prado for the annual picnic.
In favor: All
Opposed: None
Motion passed.

3. Picnic Committee

The proposal to have the annual CS/TNA picnic at the 800 block of Rodney Street was rejected because the University and Whist Club will not allow blocking the Rodney Street entrance/exit to their parking lot during the picnic. An alternative location is needed. Kirk Avenue as the venue is possible but since the picnic has been held there in the past, attendees suggested other locations should be

considered for variety. Bill Dunn suggested Padua Convent might be available and offered to inquire of the owners.

Action Item: Bill Dunn to ask Father McGinley and Padua Board for use of Padua Convent yard for the CS/TNA picnic on Saturday, June 24 at 4-8 p.m.

A Picnic Committee including Bill Dunn, Alfred Lance, and Tammie Williams was formed to coordinate 2011 picnic events.

4. Cool Spring Farmers' Market

Hayley Schmittinger (Farmers' Market Manager, West End Neighborhood House, 302-658-4171 x181, hschmittinger@westendnh.org), Christian Willauer (Cornerstone West, westsidegrows@gmail.com), and Carolyn Gordon (Bright Spot Ventures, West End Neighborhood House, 302-658-2800, cgordon@westendnh.org) updated attendees on the Cool Spring Farmers' Market.

The Cool Spring Farmers' Market is a collaborative effort by Cool Spring/Tilton residents, Delaware Department of Agriculture, West End Neighborhood House, Cornerstone West, and Bright Spot Ventures. It is dedicated to marketing fresh, Delaware-grown fruits and vegetables in our neighborhood. Potential offerings also include breads, cheese, honey, ice cream, meat, and cut flowers. The market will be open every Thursday 4-7:30 p.m. from June 30-September 17, 2011 at the northern end of Cool Spring Park (Jackson Street and Park Place). For vendors, a \$35.00 application fee and 5% of sales are required. Vendors must sign contracts and be present 80% of the time. Through efforts of Ed Kee (Delaware Secretary of Agriculture), three anchor farmers are committed currently with additional farmers/vendors being solicited. Delaware farmers are the first priority but vendors from Pennsylvania and New Jersey are also being considered. Produce from organic/sustainable farms would be very welcome but is difficult to locate.

Through Bright Spot Ventures at the West End Neighborhood House and a grant from Barclays Capital, the Farmers' Market will create an enterprise to teach transferable employment-related skills to teens that grew up in foster care. Teens will work in concert with adults in marketing and financial forecasting and assist farmers in selling produce.

Cool Spring Park is an excellent location for a farmers' market because there is shade to keep the produce cool, traffic patterns on Jackson and Harrison Streets and Pennsylvania and Delaware Avenues draw customers, reserved parking is available, and vendors will be allowed to park on park grounds. Major Baker is strongly in favor of the market. Questions remain to be answered on the need for police surveillance and bathroom facilities and the possible use of parking facilities at Ursuline Academy.

The Little Italy Farmers' Market near Woodlawn Library was not successful because of its poor location for vehicular and foot traffic so that produce did not sell and vendors discontinued coming to the market. However, the Little Italy Farmers' Market is being moved to Lancaster Avenue and Bancroft Parkway this spring with hopes of better sales.

Ways to publicize the Cool Spring Farmers' Market were discussed. Ideas included having weekly special events, a chef to cook snacks, musical events, fliers, and signs on residents' lawns to draw attention to the market.

The speakers emphasized the importance of residents' participation and a sign-up sheet for participation was circulated. The take-home message from the presentation was how each resident can help market the Farmers' Market – both as customers and volunteers.

5. Public Safety

Lt. Gregory Ciotti, Officer Michael Rinehart, and Officer Michael Fossett who are members of the Wilmington Police Department attended the CS/TNA meeting. Officer Rinehart addressed the CS/TNA meeting and answered questions. Officer Rinehart patrols Cool Spring and surrounding neighborhoods and indicated the Wilmington Police Department is intending to make his district smaller to enable more intensive patrolling.

Contact information:

Mike Rinehart Michael.Rinehart@cjstate.de.us

Lt. Greg Ciotti Gregory.Ciotti@cj.state.de.us

Michael Fossett Michael.Fossett@cj.state.de.us

Councilman Sammy Prado raised the issue of an exploding number of pan-handlers this year who have set up base in the CS/T neighborhood to beg for money. Other attendees, including Kevin Melloy, opined that these numerous pan-handlers present a serious problem by negatively impacting the image of Wilmington, especially at the entrances to the city. Attendees indicated that the pan-handlers have many support services available to them but they are chronically homeless, may be addicted, and may have underlying conditions such as mental health issues. Their presence opens the door to other problems in our community such as drug dealing.

Officer Rinehart said that the pan-handlers can make up to \$80.00/day in donations. If they constantly receive summons, they decide to leave and go to another location and then the cycle begins again.

Councilman Prado and several attendees suggested that public education should be used to solve the problem of the pan-handlers. The public should be educated on the problems the beggars cause in our neighborhood, social and health issues of panhandlers, and the services available to help them. The public should be advised not to give them money and instead make donations to social agencies such as the Ministry of Caring to help these individuals. Other strategies raised by attendees included using surveillance cameras and making it illegal to give pan-handlers money. Signs should be posted indicating the legal implications of giving the pan-handlers money.

On other subjects, Councilman Prado indicated that drug dealers are coming into Cool Spring/Tilton from Hilltop because this is a very quiet neighborhood and a good place for drug deals. Also graffiti is increasing. Officer Rinehart advised residents to call police immediately on any suspicious activity.

6. New Business

- Problem Properties

Residents complained about the high grass and disorder at:

- 10th and Adams Streets, owned by the City of Wilmington.
- 1319 West 8th St.

Residents were advised to call the City of Wilmington Constituents Hot Line.

- Bill Dunn expressed disappointment with the yard sale in that no newspaper advertisement was run and his property was not included on the map. However, the yard sale was advertised on Facebook and Craig's List. Also, owners must contact the CS/TNA by the deadline date to be included on the map.
- Alfred Lance kindly offered crushed stone at 1004 West 8th St. to residents at no cost.

Attendees

Christian Willauer
Joseph Moore
Heyon Jean
Bill & Barbara Dunn
Dennis Gallagher
George Ropes
Tammie Williams
Ellen Priest
John Shaw
Jim Dolan
Samm Pisotano
Kevin Melloy
Joe Grey
David Schelat
Laura Philon
Kim Armstead
Alfred Lance
Eric and Lisa Zumsteg
Dale Southam
John & Judy Fardoulis
Clara Zahradnik
Ed Weirauch
Connie Smith

West End Neighborhood House

Carolyn Gordon
Hayley Schmittinger

Elected Officials

Councilman Sammy Prado

Wilmington Police Department

Lt. Greg Ciotti
Officer Michael Fossett
Officer Michael Rinehart