

Cool Spring/Tilton Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2011

Attendees: See attached list.

1. Welcome

Meeting chair Clara Zahradnik (President – CS/TNA) welcomed CS/TNA meeting attendees and encouraged any non-members to complete a membership form. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Elections

C. Zahradnik explained that, according to CS/TNA By-laws, no elections are required for single slate offices; therefore, elections were not held for offices of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer.

For the office of Secretary, two candidates, Regina Lafferty and Connie Smith, were nominated. In election speeches, C. Smith stated that she had lived in the Cool Spring/Tilton neighborhood for several years and would place a priority on accurate and timely minutes. R. Lafferty stated that she had lived in the Cool Spring/Tilton neighborhood for several years and emphasized that she would write minutes on a timely basis that accurately reflected what had transpired in the meeting

Terry O’Byrne counted the paper ballots and reported the results as R. Lafferty with 14 votes and C. Smith with 24 votes.

The 2011-2012 CS/TNA officers are:

President:	Clara Zahradnik
Vice-President	Heather Hook
Treasurer	Tammie Williams
Secretary	Connie Smith

3. Announcements

- Daffodil planting – October 22
Volunteers are needed to plant daffodils on the tree lawn at 9th and Van Buren Streets at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 22. Rain date is in the afternoon of Sunday, October 23. Contractors have dug holes in the ground so only placement of the bulbs is needed.

- **Oktoberfest at McCoy Way – October 22**
Residents of McCoy Way are hosting Oktoberfest for neighborhood families on Saturday, October 22 at McCoy Way. Festivities will start at 2:00 p.m. and continue until dark; rain or shine since tents will be available. Frankfurters, bratwurst, beer, and soft drinks will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please RSVP to Tyler Tracy at Tylertracy307@gmail.com or CSTNA19806@aol.com.
- **Grand opening of Crazy Chic Boutique**
The Crazy Chic Boutique at 7th and Harrison Streets is now open with accessories, furniture, and many other items for sale.
- **Farmers' Market**
The last day of the Farmers' Market in Cool Spring Park will be Thursday, October 13 and will feature speeches by political and community dignitaries from 4:00-5:00 p.m. and festivities including games for children. Please come out to support the final day of this very successful community initiative.

4. Parking Enforcement

Debra Wooden, representing the Division of Revenue, Department of Finance of the City of Wilmington, clarified parking regulations in the city and answered questions from attendees. The speaker raised the following important points:

- **City parking regulations**
The overall goal of the City's parking regulation is to curtail parking in neighborhoods by non-residents who drive into Wilmington, park on neighborhood streets, and then walk to work. Wilmington strives to maintain parking for residents because of complaints by residents regarding parking by non-residents in the neighborhood.
- **Residential Parking Permit Program**
The Residential Parking Permit Program allows parking in areas where time-limited parking regulations apply. The program exempts vehicles from two-hour parking zone requirements (i.e., moving cars after two hours in two-hour parking zones is not required with a permit; the two-hour parking regulation does apply to vehicles without current residential permits); however, the program does not allow exemptions from other parking limitations such as for street cleaning (i.e., all vehicles must be moved for street cleaning). The parking permits are distributed free of charge but all fines must be paid before applying for the permit.

The annual issuance of parking stickers requires:

- Proof of residence (lease or utility bill for renters).
- Proof that the vehicle is registered at the address in question.
- Proof of ownership of the vehicle.

- Do Not Ticket Program

The Do Not Ticket Program allows 14-day on-street parking for guests of residents without residential parking permits. This program provides exemptions from time-limited parking regulations but not from any other parking limitations. In this program, vehicle registration numbers are entered into a data base to alert city parking employees not to ticket the vehicle.

To register, please call:

302-576-3980 or 302-571-4320 or email: guestpass@wilmingtonDE.gov

- Contractor parking

Several attendees voiced complaints that no allowances have been made for contractor parking and this situation has strongly discouraged contractors for working in the city. The speaker stated that to obtain a one-day parking allowance, the Division of Revenue should be contacted one day prior to the work with a description of the contractor's vehicle. The contractor must have a City of Wilmington business license.

- Blocked access

Attendees inquired who to contact if a vehicle blocks their access to the street. The speaker advised calling:

Division of Revenue (302-576-2400) and Non-emergency Police number (302-576-3940).

The vehicle will be towed if the registrant of the complaint is present.

- Idling of school buses

Attendees raised complaints on idling of school buses near Padua School and Lewis Elementary School with resultant air and noise pollution and traffic congestion. D. Wooden indicated the Department of Transportation regulates school bus idling.

- Public bus stops

D. Wooden requested that residents be considerate in not parking near public bus stops since buses must be able to drive as close to the curb as possible.

- Parking tickets

Attendees voiced complaints on the seemingly excessive rate of ticketing parked cars with the practice having developed into a revenue engine for the City of Wilmington to the detriment of quality of life. Further, awarding the contract for ticketing to a company from New Jersey, rather than one from Delaware, seemed inappropriate.

5. New Business

- Ellen Priest voiced her and other neighborhood residents' ideas on what the CS/TNA should accomplish since the association is a critical entity in connecting residents and the City of

Wilmington government. She described three ideas for meeting topics to ensure CS/TNA plays an active and relevant role in interfacing with the city government:

- Consider thoroughly the role of the Neighborhood Planning Council (NPC) of the 5th District including the role of NPC, its interaction with CS/TNA, and activities other neighborhoods have developed with the NPC.
- Acquaint new members of CS/TNA with the NPC.
- Develop ideas for three to four standing committees in CS/TNA during the November meeting. For example, standing committees could meet separately from the CS/TNA monthly meeting, report at the CS/TNA meeting, and address issues such as demolition by neglect and zoning. Committees could include:
 - Housing
 - Social activities
 - Combination safety and neighborhood beautification.

The discussion on the committees at the November meeting could take the format of small groups that discuss roles of possible committees and that then report back to the entire group. C. Zahradnik agreed to schedule a discussion of standing committees in the November meeting.

- R. Lafferty extended congratulations to C. Smith on her election to secretary. R. Lafferty also voiced a complaint on Vice-President Ed Weirauch's use of the CS/TNA distribution list to send an email supporting the candidacy of C. Smith. In response, E. Weirauch stated that he was simply expressing his personal opinion on the candidate and regretted that R. Lafferty interpreted this action in an unintended manner.

In addition, R. Lafferty noted that according to protocols generally followed by associations, minutes of the prior meeting are made available to be read by all attendees (with or without Internet access) at or before the current meeting and a motion is made to approve the minutes with or without amendments. C. Zahradnik stated that the minutes of the prior meeting are posted on the CS/TNA website before the current meeting. Further, the officers would consider how best to make the minutes available to all attendees at the current meeting and vote on the minutes while minimizing printing costs and making good use of meeting time.

6. Public Safety

Police Officer Cpl. Michael Rinehart 302-463-4204 michael.rinehart@cj.state.de.us

Cpl. Rinehart reported that shootings and homicides have declined in his area and he will present a report detailing this trend when it is approved by Mayor Baker's office. Attendees applauded Cpl. Rinehart's efforts.

Cpl. Rinehart emphasized that with the upcoming holidays, residents should be especially vigilant regarding potential criminal activity and recommended the following steps for protection:

- Take everything out of your vehicles when parked on the street. “Out of sight, out of mind” is a good motto.
- Home protection. Keep porch lights on. Don’t leave a car with the motor running in the driveway while absent for any period of time, however short.
- If away from home for the holidays, contact the Non-emergency Police phone number or C. Zahradnik who will notify Officer Rinehart.

7. Elected Officials

Councilman Sammy Prado noted that homeless individuals remain in this neighborhood because they have repeat customers and discouraged residents from giving money and/or small jobs to the homeless. Also, Councilman Prado reported increased drug activity in Tilton Park.

8. Community Map

Cornerstone West representatives Joan Fultz and Vanity Sanders (Public Allies) updated attendees on the West End Neighborhood Association’s current initiative to gain input on residents’ ideas to improve the community. The initiative includes a survey of residents’ ideas as well as a collaborative map. J. Fultz and V. Sanders invited attendees to list their ideas on the map which they brought to the CS/TNA meeting. The map is permanently located in Woodlawn Library while residents can also map on-line. Any type of gathering is invited to share on the collaborative map; if interested, please contact J. Fultz (jfultz@westendnh.org; 658-4171 Extension 172).

Attendees

Laurel Strahorn
Dennis Gallagher
Bonita Frawley
Susan Poole
Dann and Cathy Gladnick
Regina Lafferty
Dan Lang
Jeffrey DeLilo
Mitchell and Anne Glass
Jeff and Robin Kusumi
Paul Calistro
Ellen Priest
Jim and Sandra Dolan
Robert Tietze
Mark Stump
Heather Williams
Alex Capossere
Charlotte Mighton
Terry O'Byrne
Angela Henry
Thelma Brown
Njideka Wiggins
Henry Smith
Vince and Monica Turner
Doug Gerdtz
Joe Grey
Eric and Lisa Zumsteg
John and Judy Fardoulis
Tyler Tracy
Heather Hook
Clara Zahradnik
Ed Weirauch
Connie Smith

Division of Revenue, Department of Finance, City of Wilmington
Debra Wooden

West End Neighborhood House/ Cornerstone West
Joan Fultz

Vanity Sanders (Public Allies)

Elected Officials

Councilman Bud Freel

Councilman Sammy Prado

Wilmington Police Department

Cpl. Michael Rinehart