

# Cool Spring/ Tilton Neighborhood Association

## Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2011

Attendees: See attached list

### 1. Welcome

Meeting chair Ed Weirauch (Vice-President – CS/TNA) welcomed CS/TNA meeting attendees.

### 2. Announcements

- Farmers' Market

Plans are underway to organize a Farmers' Market in Cool Spring Park on Thursdays 3-7 p.m. starting at the end of June. The Life Lines Program for transitioning foster-care youth in collaboration with the Delaware Department of Agriculture (Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture) envisions the Farmers' Market as a means to create jobs for youths in selling the produce, expand markets for local agriculture, and make fresh produce available for Wilmington residents. The support of Cool Spring/Tilton residents is needed.

- Newsletter

Some residents voiced complaints that the paper copy of the monthly newsletter is arriving at homes after the monthly meeting. Other attendees emphasized the importance of the hard-copy newsletter in ensuring communication of neighborhood events while for those without access to a computer or email, the paper copy may be the only link. Ed Weirauch indicated that steps will be taken to ensure timely delivery of the newsletter.

- Community Yard Sale – April 30

The Community Yard Sale is rescheduled to April 30 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. with sign up by April 18. No rain date is scheduled. The sale will be advertised in several media. Turnout varies from year to year despite the same promotion of the sale every year.

- Clean-up Day Rescheduled – May 7

Clean-up Day was rescheduled to May 7 due to heavy rains on April 9. Participants will meet at Café Bohemia from 8:30-9:30 a.m. for coffee and to pick up bags, clean up properties from 9:30-11:30 a.m., and return filled bags to 621 North Van Buren Street or the backyard of 1109 North Franklin Street.

- Wilmington Community Day- May 14

For Wilmington Community Day, CS/TNA resident volunteers will plant sweet potato vines in street planters and perennials in Cool Spring Park at 10<sup>th</sup> and Van Buren streets.

### **3. Public Safety**

Corporal Jordan (302-598-6284) addressed the meeting and emphasized the following:

- If residents see a drug sale, they should call 911.
- Community police officers have more flexibility and time in addressing non-urgent complaints.
- Several police officers are assigned to the Cool Spring/Tilton neighborhood.

Wilmington Police Department Lt. Greg Ciotti (Human Resources Supervisor) invited residents to contact him with non-urgent complaints. His contact information is:

Lt. Greg Ciotti Email: [Gregory.Ciotti@cj.state.de.us](mailto:Gregory.Ciotti@cj.state.de.us)

Tel: (302) 379-3617

Meeting attendees raised several concerns and asked who in the City government should be contacted with their questions. Lt. Ciotti indicated he would follow up on the following issues:

- On the 700 Block of Harrison Street, an alley for access for trash collection is piled with junk which is unsightly and needs to be removed.
- Storm drains throughout the neighborhood are clogged with leaves and debris.
- What protocols should be followed with the City government and insurance companies after a hit and run accident.
- Request for a presentation by the Department of Police as to what crimes are being committed in the CS/T neighborhood.

### **4. CS/TNA Mixer at the University and Whist Club**

Attendees of the mixer indicated they were very pleased with the opportunity for this social interaction among neighborhood residents as well as with the wonderful hospitality of the University and Whist Club. Several attendees expressed interest in having another mixer. Dale Southam suggested that a representative from the Club should be present to explain the guidelines for membership at the Club.

### **5. Wilmington Green City Initiative**

Andrea Kreiner of the Green City Initiative addressed the meeting regarding the Wilmington Green City Environmental Stewardship Self-Certification Program and distributed the Workbook for Households. This is a self-certification program in which residents review the workbook contents, check off the initiatives currently being undertaken in their household, calculate their score, and with sufficient points, sign up online to become certified as a Green City Environmental Steward. The booklet

has many recommendations to reduce the carbon footprint and live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. Further information is available at [GreenCity@WilmingtonDE.gov](mailto:GreenCity@WilmingtonDE.gov).

## **6. Community Garden at Rodney Reservoir**

Public Allies representatives reported that the City of Wilmington government approved Rodney Reservoir as a site for a community garden and thanked the community for supporting letters. Interested residents should maintain contact through Facebook and email. An upcoming meeting will explain the procedure to assign plots. The garden will be planted on May 14 with Joe Gray and friends volunteering to rototill the area. No raised beds are needed since the soil is good. Public Allies acknowledged the Cool Spring/Tilton community for all the help in getting this project started and meeting attendees thanked Public Allies for their work in implementing the project.

## **7. Breakfast/Lecture at Queen Theatre**

Ed Weirauch reported that he attended a city breakfast and lecture at the Queen Theatre which described efforts by Paduka, Kentucky to make vacant houses available to artists for studios at minimal cost. This approach may be applicable to vacant houses in the Cool Spring/Tilton neighborhood. Ellen Priest said she feels the time is ripe for a similar initiative in Wilmington.

A motion was made to reimburse Ed Weirauch for \$45.00 for attending the breakfast and lecture.

In favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion passed

## **8. Councilman Bud Freel**

Councilman Freel reported on the upcoming City of Wilmington budget hearings and recommended residents contact him with suggestions on ways for the City to save money. A tax increase has been proposed; however, Councilman Freel believes the City has too many employees (1138 employees) and if the number of employees is reduced, there is still enough slack not to cut services. For example, the number of police employees per capita in the City is among the highest in the country. The City has reduced overtime and eliminated some events. For example, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks have been eliminated this year, thereby saving \$125,000.

## **9. Ornamental Fish in Plaza Park**

Dale Southam reported that the ornamental fish in the Park Plaza are missing.

## Attendees

Christian Willauer  
Bill & Barbara Dunn  
Ellen Priest  
Jim Dolan  
Joe Grey  
David Schelat  
Alfred Lance  
Eric Zumsteg  
Maria Cabrera  
Amy O'Neill  
Dale Southam  
Ed Weirauch  
Connie Smith

### Wilmington Green City Initiative

Andrea Kreiner

### Public Allies

Caitlin Dalih  
Morgan McGinnity

### Elected Officials

Councilman Bud Freel

### Wilmington Police Department

Lt. Greg Ciotti  
Cpl. Ryan Jordan