

# Cool Spring/Tilton Neighborhood Association

## Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2010

Attendees: See attached list.

### 1. Welcome

Meeting Chair Clara Zahradnik welcomed CS/TNA meeting attendees.

### 2. Announcements

- PayPal is now available for dues and other payments through the efforts of Doug Gerdt.
  - Mother African Church (Franklin and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets) invites CS/TNA for Kwanza on December 26 at 4:00 p.m. Potluck (please bring a dish-to-pass) with a theme on Unity.
  - 3 Committees with members need to be organized to plan activities. Please sign up on the circulating sign-up sheets.
- Community Clean-Up Day in April, 2011. Since the City can no longer pay overtime for special clean-up activities, a group is needed to develop ideas for Clean-up Day. One suggestion: clean/restore the playground equipment in Cool Spring and Tilton Parks.
- Community Yard Sale. A group is needed to plan and organize the Community Yard Sale. One idea for the sale: a bazaar with tents around the fountain in Cool Spring Reservoir Park. Topics for discussion include how to handle unsold items (give to Goodwill?) and how to arrange when a resident has only a few items for sale (multi-resident tent?)
- Streetscape revamping, including trees and grass, around Cool Spring Reservoir Park. A group is needed to plan and organize the streetscape renovation. State Representative Gerald Brady may have obtained partial funding.

### 3. Father McGinley Rescheduled

Father McGinley from St. Anthony of Padua Church rescheduled and will speak on Padua Convent issues in the February, 2011 CS/TNA meeting.

### 4. Community Police Officer Donald Cramer

Contact information. Personal cell phone: 302-388-8920

E-mail: [donald.cramer@cj.state.de.us](mailto:donald.cramer@cj.state.de.us)

Officer Cramer answers citizen complaints and non-emergencies (i.e., dog barking, illegal car parking, all city codes) but not street crimes (not 911 calls). A partner (to be named) will share his large territory (Lancaster to Pennsylvania Avenues; I95 to Bancroft Parkway) which includes Cool Spring/Tilton Park neighborhoods.

He advised residents to keep house and car doors locked and house exteriors, including porches, well lit with lights on at night (use CS/TNA light sensors). Extensive discussion followed on several issues including: loitering on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and the complexities of enabling arrest of loiters; major copper thievery of gutters and downspouts from houses in Cool Spring/Tilton Park neighborhoods; the importance of maintaining continuity of police officers in the community versus the rapid turnover that has occurred to date.

### **5. Former Methodist Mission Property at 1200 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

The property, including parsonage and surrounding land, is now for sale because the Methodist Church Board decided the property cannot be maintained without an active congregation and all the programs formerly housed in the building have moved. Currently the property is zoned R-3 so that uses of R-1, R-2, and R-3 are allowed.

Meeting attendees suggested several possible uses including businesses (e.g. law offices), rental apartments, group home. Demolition is not forbidden but reuse is preferred with demolition requiring approval by DRPC.

### **6. New Business**

- Residents expressed great concern over the high turnover of police officers in the Cool Spring/Tilton neighborhoods and emphasized this concern must be conveyed to Wilmington Police Chief Michael Szczerba who will speak at the January, 2011 CS/TNA meeting. Police officers with no experience in this neighborhood are not as effective as ones who have worked for a significant period in this community.
- 2 new stop signs at 11<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Streets. Ursuline Academy lost 4 parking spaces because of the stop sign and cross walk. Residents were caught off guard by the stop signs and suggested some warning of the stop signs should be considered in the approach on Franklin Street.
- Community Gardens and Public Allies. A site will be secured in late January, 2011 with planting in spring, 2011. Potential sites are Rodney Street Park, Father Tucker Park, and the block of 7<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets. If residents are interested in planning the garden, selecting the site, having a plot to garden, etc., please contact West Side Grows ([westsidegrows@gmail.com](mailto:westsidegrows@gmail.com)) or Christian Willauer of Cornerstone West at 302-658-4171 ext. 173.
- Toy drive was very successful with several large bags of toys for youngsters collected by the Cool Spring/ Tilton residents for donation to Toys for Tots in Hilltop.
- January CS/TNA meeting at 7:15 p.m. on January 11, 2011 scheduled with Police Chief Szczerba.

## Attendees

John & Judy Fardoulis  
Chuck Dorman  
Eric & Liza Zumsteg  
Christian Willauer  
Bill & Barbara Dunn  
John Shaw  
Laura Philon  
Greg Luna  
Heather Hook  
Ellen Priest  
Mitchell & Anne Glass  
Jim Dolan  
Rob York & Rebecca Neill  
George Ropes  
WPD Officer Donald Cramer  
Morgan McGinnity (Public Allies)  
Caitlin Dalih (Public Allies)  
Clara Zahradnik  
Ed Weirauch  
Connie Smith