

**West End Association
Minutes for August Meeting: August 9, 2011**

**West End Association
December 13, 2011
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Mark Lively, Pres.
Susan Morris, VP
Eric Elliott, Treas.
Kristi Marion, Sec.
Laura Elliott
Alisa Keegan
Margaret Hermann
Kathryn Spanos
Jim & Missie Vaughn
David & Lisa Elam
Diane Spaughman
Clare Fader
George Bryan
Jeff Smith
Stan Hill
Toni Phillips
Richard Atwood
Daniel Yohannes
Andrew Leslie

Guests:

Councilwoman Wanda & John Merschel
Kemonia McCarter (City of W-S)
Keith Raulston (NCDOT)
Amy Hubbard (Simon Resources)
Winston-Salem DOT members
Wanda Merschel, Council Member

West End Association President, Mark Lively called the meeting to order.

Approval of the October minutes was postponed to the January meeting, as were the November minutes.

The Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was postponed as the Treasurer was running a bit late.

New Business:

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The 2012 Tour of Homes is set for December 12, 2012. We need to identify a principle organizer of the event.

Our February meeting is the Association's Annual Meeting and election of officers. Also, Don Martin will give an update on Brunson Elementary and Wiley Middle Schools.

Or, in February (or March), Parks & Rec and Sewage & Water may come to talk about the Hanes Park bridge demolition.

Old Business-

Crime:

On November 28th a Neighborhood Crime Meeting was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Assistant Chief Roundtree, Captain Patricia Murphy, Detective Anderson, Kemona McCarter and West End neighbors attended. Mark Lively said that police offered statistics that show we are not really suffering from higher crime rates than usual.

533 Summit Street:

Plans fell through for family interested in purchasing and returning the property to a residential dwelling. The cost for the work that needed to be done was too high for the bank to approve the loan for the selling price.

Development of YWCA Property:

Developer Bill Benton held an Open House at the YWCA on November 20th. Board member Clare Fader reported that the meeting was very well attended. The property is now under contract. Feedback from West End neighbors at the Open House conveyed that the Craftsman style would be the style most fitting for the neighborhood. The condos would be priced at \$500,000 and up.

Fourth Street Bridge Closing:

Keith Raulston, an engineer from the NCDOT, gave an update on the Business 40 construction, stating that on Business 40 where Fourth Street crosses Peters Creek, NCDOT will be replacing the Peters Creek bridge with ramps to the east side.

"As a default," said Keith, "the Fourth Street bridge will remain. It is in reasonably good shape and does not qualify for replacement funding."

Alisa Keegan, a concerned resident of Fourth Street who has been involved in several community efforts to calm traffic on Fourth Street, with one solution

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being the close the bridge, said the intersection of West End Boulevard, Taylor Street and Fourth Street now qualifies for Phase 2 Traffic Calming. She suggested that turning the bridge into a pedestrian walkway or closing it would save the City of Winston-Salem lots of money. Alisa also pointed out that the Fire Department and EMS have stated that they do not need the bridge to access our communities.

City Council Member, Wanda Merschel said that at the Talk of the Town meeting, it was not decided who would make the decision on whether or not to close the Fourth Street bridge, the City of Winston-Salem, or the NCDOT. Keith Raulston stated that the NCDOT defers to the City of Winston-Salem in the matter.

Wanda asked if a test closing of the bridge would be helpful. Keith Raulston said "Yes," and that a decision needs to be made by 2015. Wanda said it is helpful to know that Public Safety Dept. have "signed off" on the closing. Keith Raulston suggested that they take formal public input after the test closing.

At Eric Elliott's suggestion, with a show of hands, all in the room voted for the close of the bridge to both vehicular and foot traffic, with only one vote of "no".

Residents were encouraged to voice their opinion to the NCDOT with a message to Business40@business40NC.com

Vice President Susan Morris had asked Council Member Wanda Merschel about the correct naming of "West End Boulevard", as postal services and the DMV have it listed as "W End Blvd" rather than "'W-E-S-T' End Blvd". Wanda let Kemonia McCarter explain the City of Winston-Salem has it listed correctly as "West End Blvd", but that they cannot control or correct other agencies, and that it is probably a combination of automatic computer transcription of "West" to "W" as a direction, as well as computer operator for ease and speed.

Board member Daniel Yohannes asked Wanda for an update on the street car proposal for downtown. She said it is in its third phase of study. She said it wouldn't impact the West End area. Discussion ensued about how the Research Park might benefit from such a rail to Davis Garage.

Other Updates: Wanda Merschel announced that the City Council has just gone through a ward alignment. There was conversation of splitting up the West End, but it remained intact.

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Newsletter- Attendees were reminded that the deadline for newsletter content is December **20th**.

January Meeting: Our guest speakers at our next meeting on January 17th at 7:00 p.m. are Mark Harbison and Becky Gibson of the HRC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.