

For the Record

Minutes of the May 20th 2003 Neighborhood Committee
By Secretary Raymond A.G. Will

In attendance: Paula Glynn(Chair) Mayor Evelyn Sirrell, Nancy Chico, Thanasis Tournas, Bill St Laurent, Jim Melfi, Martin Cameron, Diane Lavigne, Ron Cypher, Denise Rollins, Suzzane Ford, Mary Maurer, and Raymond A.G Will (secretary).

Introduction of Visitors and Speakers. It was announced by the chair that the minutes would be deferred until after the Steering Committee Report to allow guest speaker City Attorney Bob Sullivan to speak to the committee on the subject of future mayors picking the Committee's chair. Secretary Raymond Will expressed the concern that because historically the Mayor had picked the chair of the Neighborhood Committee, what is to stop a future mayor that is hostile to the Committee from appointing a chair equally hostile to neighborhood organizing?

Bob Sullivan replied that since the Neighborhood Committee was founded nine years ago, the committee has since enacted it's own bylaws that state how a Chair is chosen, and are not under any mayor or council-controlled ordinance. The bylaws state that the Chair is chosen by nominations of the Steering Committee and voted on by the full committee. In fact, the only reason why the committee is able to use city facilities to hold meetings is because the present mayor is so closely and historically involved with the Committee. At present if the secretary's fear were to come to pass—a neighborhood-hostile mayor is elected--the worst that could happen is the Committee would need another meeting place. At that, Ray suggested a few places the Committee could meet. Attorney Sullivan also stated that another possibility would be to have Council codify the Committee's existence by ordinance enactment (similar to the Peirce Island Committee) thus providing the Committee city liability protection. But the disadvantage to that is that at any time the council could UN-enact the Neighborhood Committee.

The next person on the list of guest speakers was Ned Reynolds of Clean Air Cool Planet who was introducing the concept of green buildings to the design and construction community. This is the high performance and efficient uses of not only energy but noise and health conscious heating and cooling. Ned said that the General Services Administration has already deemed that all new construction of federal buildings be green buildings. He has already worked to get the library and the high school involved in constructing efficient buildings. Ned then passed out a folder of information to each representative so they could return them to their respective neighborhoods.

Report of the Steering Committee: At this time the chair brought up the minutes that had been earlier deferred, and except two corrections on the attendance of last meeting, the minutes were seconded and approved. After this approval the Committee was given the report of the Steering Committee. It was announced that Captain Yardui (sic) is holding a National Night Out meeting on June 3rd at

the police station. The food bank was covered for May and July, and that Rogers Street would be taking care of June. It was also announced that there would be three grammar school meetings to cover the Existing Conditions Report of the Master Plan Study Circles. There will be a general workshop on the Christmas Parade June 9, and the Pontine Movement Theatre is holding theatre workshops May 13-June 25. Finally it was announced that the next meeting would be July 15th and perhaps attended by traffic consultant John Burke.

Short Update from Each Neighborhood: Among the highlights: The Atlantic Heights reported that they just had election of officers and a seed and plant exchange. Abandoned cars in the area were finally cleared up. The Association is also planning a garden walk July 17th and a 20+ home yard sale June 14th. Thanasis Tournas of the Friends of the South End said his group just had elections as well and their most pressing goal is coming up with a comprehensive way of living next to four vibrant museums in their neighborhood. Mary Mauer of Rogers Street said her group is waiting for pending information on the Court Street improvement project. Denise Rollins of Cass Street said that her group is keeping an eye on the proposed office building in her area as well as waiting for a long awaited new sewer line. Jim Melfi of Sherburne Civic Association said his group is awaiting the grand opening of a new playground. Suzzanne Ford of Frank Jones Farm asked the Committee how to access the tree fund. A Greenery Committee was suggested, as well as proposing a removal replanting plan to the city. Martin Cameron of Ocean Road began his report by suggesting that the city traffic engineer discuss the intersection of Banfield and Ocean Road when he comes to the next meeting. Martin also suggested that the Committee send a general letter of thanks to City Manager Bohenko for his work on the proposed Greenland shopping center. While some members voiced concern about the Committee endorsing one side or the other, it was put to a vote and the motion to send the letter passed with two dissenting votes. Roy Cypher of Lafayette Road residents Association reported that when the management of Hillcrest Estates tried to cut down the eelgrass growing between units, Jason Page was there stopping them five minutes after he got the call. Roy also voiced concern with private trash pickup in a neighborhood with so many seniors. It was also suggested that city Board and Commission members should have term limits. Ray Will cautioned that if the Boards did not have some institutional memory then the developers would pull the wool over the eyes of inexperienced board members.

With the reports of each neighborhood complete and with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.