

Minutes
TWNA
Jan 11, 2007

Steering Committee Members Present: Harriet Allen, Kathy Buchholz, Carlyn Conway, Laurie Forcier, Ken Fulgione, Maria Henley, Rick Kayser, Sue Miller, Bob Schwartz, Dewayne Severson, Catherine Sinkewicz.

Others Present: Steve Betchkal, Sherry Chambers, Don Christian, Mike DeRosa, Roger Forcier, Sue Forcier, Peter Hable, Ellen Krasnow, Ronald Metzler, Mary Mickel, Anton Smets.

The meeting was called to order at 7.00 P.M. by Vice Chair, Catherine Sinkewicz,

1. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting.
2. Anton Smets returned to discuss his proposal to purchase and rezone the property at 1705 Park. He said “connecting with the neighbors was more interesting than I thought.” He has talked to 70% of the entities given to him by the city. Mrs. Reese had objections at first but was ambivalent later. He didn’t have a chance to return calls from Sherry Chambers. He has not met with those opposed.

The neighbors with concerns were introduced:

- a. Sherry Chambers is vehemently opposed to a change in zoning. She listed the historical nature of the neighborhood, parking situation, counseling center clientele, and alley safety as areas that would be negatively impacted with Dr. Smets' proposal. She said her neighbors on each side, including Mrs. Reese, have agreed to sign a petition opposing the zoning change. Ms. Chambers also felt a better choice for the clinic would be in an area already zoned commercial. She also felt the homeowners could sell the house if they put some money into wiring, roofing etc.
- b. Don Metzler has recently purchased the Phillips house at 1615 Park. He said it is important to keep up and improve properties as a necessity when later selling. People have come up to him expressing gratitude that he has made the Phillips house a family home again.
- c. Don Christian, an administrator at UWEC said there had been a proposal to make the home at 1705 Park an honors building, but the University felt that making the house a multi-dwelling would change the historical nature of the neighborhood.

- d. Mary Mickel and Carlyn Conway reported they had called several neighbors who do not live in the immediate area of 1705 Park, and none of them want rezoning.
- e. Dewayne Severson said Dr. Smets has a history of improving Third Ward properties.

Dr. Smets explained that he had not been manipulative, but that the Welds who own the 1705 Park property required he make an accepted offer. He said he won't pursue this and will get his earnest money back. He refutes the idea that he doesn't have an interest in historical preservation. He has resources and would preserve the house. He feels that others may not have the money to do that. He pointed out that he lives in the Third Ward too. Ken reminded us that Dr. Smets need go before the Plan Commission in order to get his money back, and that The Third Ward needs to attend the Monday Night meeting.

- 3. Motion: Dewayne made a motion to accept Dr. Smets' proposal for commercial zoning. It was seconded and there was a discussion. There were two abstentions, (Rick Kayser and Ken Fulgione). The motion was defeated, seven no votes, one yes vote.
- 4. Pete Hamel of 1325 So. Farwell, and Steve Betchkal of 1323 So. Farewell reported that that the house at 1321 So. Farwell is in foreclosure and the landlord lives out of town. The house is condemned and has had drug dealers in it since condemnation. They would like to buy the house and want to know how to go about it. They were told to contact Darryl Tufte at City Economic Development.
- 5. The next pedestrian Safety committee meeting will be January 26th.
- 6. The newsletters have been delivered. They are also being mailed to Third Ward Landlords. We will include an article about Heritage Days in the next newsletter. Laurie Forcier asked that we included an article about Mr. Kemp who is running unopposed for City Council. Mary asked if the newsletter should have a candidate forum and/or participate in the East Hill Forum.
- 7. Motions: Rick made a motion we have a forum in the newsletter for candidate questions. It was seconded and passed. He also made a motion we include an article on Mr. Kemp. It was seconded and passed
- 8. Parks and Skating Report: Weather has not been warm enough for ice to form. The city may flood rinks, perhaps not all rinks with the coming cold weather, or there may be no skating this year.

9. Treasurer's Report: We have \$1572.04 in our account. Maria said she did not deposit the Litchfield check as he died, and we had not run his advertisement.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.
Katherine Buchholz, Secretary