

WAVERLY TERRACE HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

6:15 pm

Waverly Terrace Senior Apartments Media Room—3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Attendees: Dianne Armstrong, Beverly Baldwin, Tom Danison, Brenda Hall, Beverly Hines, Michael Holmes, Joe Hunt, Johnny King, MaryKay Nestor, Alex Reddick, Sandra Schmidt, Libby Smith, Bert Talley, Alice Vickers.

Call to Order

- I. Welcome (Libby): following prayer requested by attendee Alice Vickers.
- II. Minutes of previous meeting accepted (Bert Talley; Sandra Schmidt seconded).
- III. Reports:
  - A. Treasurer's Report: Sandra Schmidt. Motion to accept: Bert Talley and MaryKay Nestor.
  - B. Note: at this juncture, Libby went over the rest of the committee reports up to the Awareness committee's because the leaders were absent. These committees and their leaders are as follows:
    1. Fundraising Committee: Ali McGhee
    2. Code Violations: Ray Gonzales, Suzanne Boone
    3. Neighborhood Improvement Committee (neighborhood beautification & Clean-Up—Flowerbeds): Needs Chair
    4. Awareness Committee: (area happenings related to WTHN)—Bert Talley.
      - a. Brenda Hall voiced both a question and a complaint against the Board of Historical Architectural Review (BHAR) and its policy concerning materials replacement. She asked why BHAR insists on certain materials being used for repair work on historic dwellings. She gave the example of BHAR's not allowing vinyl siding but requiring wood (its "like-on-like" policy). She said that old wood did not absorb paint very well. Libby Smith responded that BHAR's role and impact concerned the possible deterioration of housing if not tended to properly. At this point, attendee Alice Vickers questioned the direction of the discussion, noting that housing was a topic at the previous meeting. Libby explained that BHAR had to follow code and state guidelines for derelict housing in order to get it upgraded or removed from the premises, and these should be concerns of us all. Sandra Schmidt picked up this thread in the dialogue, pointing out that our aim as a group is to improve the neighborhood, so that it is a safe and pleasant place for everyone, not just homeowners, to live. Brenda Hall ended the conversation by saying that BHAR needed to be more flexible. Attendee asked about the vacant, dilapidated house across the street on Peabody, which is thought to be tied up in court, the owner being deceased. Libby said she will find out at the next BHAR meeting and will also request that our Association be put on the BHAR agenda so that we can have our questions answered and our uncertainties addressed. In a follow-up to the conversation on run-down housing as blight on the neighborhood, and in a response to a question from an attendee about

the social nature of WTHN, Libby announced that the goal of the Association is to further neighborhood development and perhaps return it to its former elegance and graciousness. Bert Talley explained the process of getting code and necessary materials from the city. Resident (MaryKay Nestor?) asked why the city comes down on homeowners trying to improve their property. Libby responded that the Board needs to be more flexible. Apartment residents implied that only homeowners are vested in houses. However, Libby argued that houses must be maintained so the area is stable, and so we can all live safely and in comfort. She suggests that we can do practical things to keep up the neighborhood, such as getting someone to cut the grass at vacant houses cheaply.

Alex Reddick volunteered to mow grass for run-down and neglected properties. Sandra Schmidt remarked that all these ideas were fine, but things falling apart is demoralizing for us all. In effect, we all have a stake in the neighborhood's rehabilitation.

b. Discussion ensued over types of loans available from the Historic Association to use in fixing houses.

c. On the subject of neighborhood beautification, Libby brought up the leash law, saying many dog owners ignore it. The result is that the dogs get out of hand.

d. A question was asked about the BHAR board, which meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays of the month. Do we need to be put on the agenda?

5. Welcome Committee: Holly/Bert Talley, Stephanie Dubose. Bert Talley reported that there was no significant activity.

6. Neighborhood Watch: Bill Gaddy (absent)

a. Concerns were voiced, both at tonight's meeting and at last month's, about the condition of WT resident "Jo." Jo is a familiar figure to most residents, who often see her collecting various disposable items in her large cart. It is understood that she takes care of several grandchildren. Jo recently injured herself and is recuperating at a daughter's. Bert Talley went by Jo's house the other day, however, and was astounded to see the contents of her house thrown in the street. When he tried to inquire further about Jo's condition, he was ordered out of the neighborhood by a neighbor. The Association will look into the matter. Libby will see if there is a contact person to get status of Jo.

b. Conflict: the Neighborhood Watch Committee (city?) meets the same night as our association. Alex Reddick proposed going to both meetings and changing our meeting night to the third Tuesday of each month. Motion to accept as proposed—passed unanimously. Will Watch police send representative to us (to keep us informed, answer questions, etc.)? The City has rotating Watch patrol officers—not good.

c. Dianne Armstrong asked about arrest on Rose Hill Street a few days ago and was informed it was drug-related.

d. Gun shots heard by several residents are often mistaken for firecrackers. But there is a difference (guns are rapid-fire?). Residents feel there is an increase of shots.

e. Libby Smith mentioned work on “the green monster” to get the house presentable. Owners open to selling.

#### IV. New Business.

- A. Libby mentioned the July 4<sup>th</sup> cookout for residents of the Waverly Terrace apartments. She also noted that in August there will be a party to celebrate law enforcement. It is expected that the fire and police departments will interact with residents on their visit in a spirit of good will. Let’s show these men and women our hospitality in gratitude for their service! The group voted to not do a Neighborhood Night Out, but instead invite our Neighborhood Watch Representatives and Community Officers to our meeting, possibly in August.
- B. Safety issues at WT apartments: intruders at night. The trouble begins on weekends when management leaves. Residents advised how to get in touch with management for help.
- C. Libby mentioned Christmas decorating. She would like the whole neighborhood to participate. She asked the group to think of ways to make this neighborhood project viable. Libby also feels this is a chance to for us to give a new impression of Waverly Terrace, and that we are not a rough neighborhood, that we love the historic ambience here, and that this is a community endeavor in which everyone joins in. The event reflects the variety of folks, their talents and abilities, who call Waverly Terrace home.
- D. Alex Reddick mentioned synchronized music and lights for people driving through the displays.
- E. There were questions about Mimi Woodson and Walker Garrett. Libby, Mimi said she could pull together a group of city officials who can address problem houses, etc. in Waverly Terrace. Members agree that Walker Garrett needs to be at the meeting, since he represents half of Waverly Terrace What are the issues there?

V. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, July 19.

VI. Adjournment: Brenda Hall made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sandra Schmidt?

Respectfully submitted,  
Dianne Armstrong  
June 25, 2018