

**East Ward Town Hall Meeting  
Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson  
Tuesday, October 23, 2007  
6:00 P.M.**

**Reynolds Park Community Recreation Center  
2450 Reynolds Park Road, Winston-Salem, NC**

**Highlights / Minutes**

Call to Order – Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson, East Ward

Prayer – Mr. Hector Cox

Council Member Joycelyn Johnson discussed the newly annexed areas, East Ward boundaries, the handout sheets and the sign in sheet

*Introductions of Neighborhoods:* 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Highland Street, Excelsior, Columbia Heights, 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Ashley School Circle, City View, Bowen Park, Dreamland, Winston Lake Estates and Old Greensboro Road to name a few.

*Introduction of City Staff:* City/County Planning Department, City Manager Office, Winston-Salem Police Department, Winston-Salem Fire Department, Recreation and Parks Department, Neighborhood Services, Human Relations, Housing and Neighborhood Development, Economic Development, Neighborhood Assistant Specialist, and City Secretary's Office.

**Engaging our Youth in the Community**

Solicited opportunities/suggestions to review over six months period and bring back to group with suggestions to include:

- Programs for parents
- Notification to parents if child has been suspended from school - Truant programs – what happens when children are suspended from school
- Challenge for 25 and under to attend meetings
- More youth involvement at the next Town Hall Meeting
- After school activities – price appropriate, community center, church
- Transportation
- Job training sites
- City-wide Youth Task Force meeting on Thursday, November 1, 2007 at City Hall

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response from Paul Norby, Planning Director
How did the new wards come about without citizen's participation (Annexation 9/06)?	The City is required to rebalance the population and its boundaries after a major annexation (there were 21,000 people annexed). The population that was in the census was apart of the rebalance and we had to make change since there were more citizens in one area that in other areas. There was discussion with City Council Members for the adoption.
I thought it had to be brought to the citizen's to get their feedback?	It has to be brought forward to Council Members for their approval.
It is possible that the North East Ward could no longer be an African - American ward?	No response.

*Presentations from City Staff:*

**City-County Planning:**

**Visioning Plan 2007-2011.....Mr. Marco Andrade**

Recommendations of the Visioning Plan and stated the Citizen Advisory Committee will present a draft to entire community by the end of 2007. After the community wide meeting if all the recommendation are fine, then we will have a Public Hearing before the City/County Planning Board and City Council; which would adopt the plan.

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers
Who sits on the Citizen Advisory Board?	We started with a community wide meeting. The City Council gives us names. All citizens still have an opportunity to apart of the Advisory Board.
Was any students from Winston-Salem State University asked to be apart of the Advisory Board?	Yes, information was sent to Chancellor's office.

**Historic Resource Commission .....Michelle McCullough**

The National Register (keeper) should notify the Historic Resource Commission by December '07 regarding status of Reynoldstown Historic District Nomination. The keeper is the Federal Government which tells us when Reynoldstown will officially be a Historic District. There was a celebration that everyone that lives in the area were invited to attend. An official map of the area will be presented at the spring meeting. The boundaries are the South of 10<sup>th</sup> Street including; Camel, Rich, Jackson, Graham, Mt. Zion Place and 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers
The people are afraid of what is going on in that area that you are referencing?	We are hoping that preservations will give the community one more tool in keeping the history and background of the area. There will be a tax credit if it is listed on the National Register that will help the neighborhood and properties.
Why did boundaries stop at certain areas and where are the boundaries?	The original plat map was looked at when R. J. Reynolds purchased those lots.
What other name would you give it?	It would continue to be called Reynoldstown.
A tax credit for whom?	If you own a home in that area, residential and rental property can receive tax credit.
How far up Jackson Street?	No further than 10 <sup>th</sup> Street.

- Citizens are concerned that no retail investments in neighborhood.
- Official map of the area by the next meeting in '08
- Advised of plan to build residential component at Union Station (Davis Garage).

**Development.....John Allen**

Martin Luther King (MLK) Corridor – discussed the erection of the following with assistance from WSSU Students:

- Large monument signs at Winston-Salem Business Park
- Directional signs at Lowery Street and MLK Jr. Drive

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers
What about a large retail development in that area. I didn't even know that location (WSBP) was even there?	CM J. Johnson named the businesses are in that location at the Business Park on Lowery Street.
When I leave my house I have to go to another town to shop, why do we not have major store in the East Ward?	There will be a Walgreen at MLK and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street within the near future. There has to be land available to bring a major chain like Wal-Mart.
Who owns the area by Union Station?	That area is owned by WSSU, not City of Winston-Salem
Where is that property?	North of the surface parking lot.

**Transportation.....Greg Turner  
Public Works/ Assistant City Manager**

- US 52 – Safety issue, environmental work by 2009
  - Transportation Improvement Plan to start 2010, may get adjusted
  - Closure 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> St. entrance and exit ramp – permanently closing – not bridges, just ramps
  - Concerns about public involvement – closures/reroutes/new roads
  - Advised to address issues to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
  - Salem Creek connector to relieve traffic from MLK Jr. Drive to WSSU – 2009 tentatively
  - Contract mandated by NCDOT for road improvement
  - Utilize evaluation for further comments/concerns
  - Safety improvements
  - MLK Jr. Drive and Business 40 – NCDOT looking at improvements in that area of MLK
  - Waterworks Road completed with three lanes, curb, gutter and turning lane.
  - Trailblazer Sign Program – A guide to identify the downtown areas.

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers
Is your office doing that survey?	No, that is the NCDOT.
When will the Salem Creek connector be complete?	In 2009, if not pushed back.
Will it go through WSSU?	No, to relive traffic through WSSU onto MLK Jr. Drive.
Is the City of Winston-Salem going to step in on Business 40, by the ballpark?	We are making sure that NCDOT is aware of the project with the ballpark.
You are still cutting east Winston off in my neighborhood. How can people from Raleigh come here and tell us how to cut up our streets?	NCDOT owns the roads and the City of W-S can not mandate what the NCDOT does with the roads.
Can a meeting be set up with NCDOT?	NCDOT has had about ten meetings in this local area.
Will the Vargrave exit on Hwy 52 be closed off?	There will be a new road built that will intersect with Stadium Drive.

<p>Will there be directional signs informing drivers where to go in East Winston?</p>	<p>The state restricts that to companies signing up their logo program. That's where the business would pay the state to put their corporate logo on the highway. In the past they restricted that and didn't like to put those signs inside urbanized area. The state has loosened up that several years ago and now you see more of those logo signs inside urbanized areas. At the major interchanges (at the end of the exit) we (City of W-S) try to put the names of the major activities centers and major institutions in that particular area. We tell drivers how to get to areas within Winston-Salem.</p>
---	---

Question from Council Member Johnson	Response/Answer
<p>Where would you like to see the new homeless housing built?</p>	<p>Old Country Club, Meadowlark, Ardmore and Reynolda Roads.</p>

**Housing Neighborhood Development.....Mellin Parker**

- Forest Ridge – Apartment complex renovations by Finch Group (located in Florida) to include 142 units - with 1 to 3 bedrooms, clubhouse, pool, fitness, business center and other amenities. This is scheduled to be a 14-month project. There will be a Ribbon Opening in the future.

Question/Concerns from Citizen	Response/Answer
<p>Will the apartments be gutted out? There were roaches in those apartments.</p>	<p>Yes, they will be gutted out. The state mandates that we gut the apartments out and major work will be done to the structure.</p>

**Neighborhood Services.....Ritchie Brooks**

- Advised of name change – from Housing & Neighborhood Services Department - enforcement services and quality of life issues in neighborhoods
- New responsibilities and activities to include zoning: abandon vehicles, occupancy requirements, etc.
- Improvements to Skyland/Lakeside/Maryland Apartments
- Lakeside Apartments
  - Under new management
  - Spanish speaking manager on-site
  - Repairs to the roof
  - Renovate all the units in a four to five year period
- Maryland Apartments
  - meeting with management in November '07; open to public
- Weed and seed program with WSSU and Center for Community Safety
- Working with Rolling Hills and more than likely extend to other neighborhoods
- Announced Graffiti program for owner occupants and investors
  - Graffiti program (like Trash Buster program) - a small grant to remove the graffiti
  - No ordinance on private property - working with the City Council
  - A Citizen Committee working to review the code
- Demolishing approved for burned house on Delaine Street – demolished by the end of December '07 (Per citizen already down. response: good)

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers
I am unsatisfied about my property.	We can talk after the meeting.
What about bad repair work?	We have checks and balances in that process of people doing the repair. Obviously the case has not been resolved.
The graffiti off Boys Club?	Removal of graffiti on public property. We are having a meeting about that graffiti off houses.
That's what I was discussing earlier re: the small grant	Grant for siding on your property. LG we have a one call number that you can report graffiti.
When you come off Hwy 52 North you see graffiti all on the wall. WSSU says the City of W-S owns that property that has the graffiti on it and I just wanted to let you know.	Thank you.

**Police.....Assistant Chief Rountree**

- Provided property checklist and advised citizens of engraving instrument available on loan at the WSPD if needed
- *Offered Holiday safety tips*
  - hold on to pocketbooks, wear comfortable clothes, shop with friends, keep a close eye on your children
  - lock up your valuables; put packages in the trunk
  - away from home - have a neighbor or family member to check your house -use timers for inside and outside lights - stop mail and newspaper - watch out for strangers
- *Scams*
  - don't go to your bank to withdraw money for someone you do not know
  - people call your home about getting your banking information
- Citizen mentioned concerns drug activities at Mt. Zion Place and safety concerns for elderly citizens at Holland Homes (owned by First Baptist Church). Advised these concerns will be addressed by Capt. Connie Southern.

Question/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers
Has a study been done about response time about the closing of the ramps that were mention earlier?	Per Deputy Fire Chief John Lucas – No, it would not impact us in a negative way. Per Assistant Chief Barry Rountree – No, I don't think it would impact the WSPD response time.

**Fire .....Deputy Fire Chief John Lucas**

Safety Tips

- check your heating system, have your Chimney cleaned, change battery in smoke decorator when you turn your clocks back
- Mary Fergusson can help you with fire preventions tips, her telephone number is 773-7965

Question/Concern from Citizen	Response/Answer
Will the WSFD provide smoke detectors?	No, we do not for liability issues

**Recreation.....Tim Grant**

- Dispel rumor regarding closing of Rupert Bell Recreation Center. There will be no recreation centers to close.
- 14<sup>th</sup> & Jackson Park Development - Funding granted to develop walking trail/path close to Hooper Funeral Home. Adding park benches and installing camera in park for security issues.

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers
Any improvements are 14 <sup>th</sup> Street Park?	Funding granted to develop walking trail/path close to Hooper Funeral Home. The Park will include benches, 8 foot-wide rock dust surfacing trail and two-way walking traffic.
The trail at Bowen Park has drug deals going on 24/7, can a camera be put?	WSPD has worked well with the Recreation and Parks Department related to vandalism, drug activity, trash, etc. Our Park Ranger George Reavis will be able to assist us with better communication between Recreation and WSPD. We are exploring some camera options around other facilities that we have. Over the last four years we have experience vandalism. If you see any vandalism activity, then call the WSPD.
If camera's cannot be installed and some lights be installed at that location?	We can take care of that.

Council Member Joycelyn Johnson recognizes Council Member Evelyn Terry and State Representative Earline Parmon.

**Community Concerns**

**Human Relations.....Wanda Allen –Abraha**

- Forum held at Bryce Stuart Building with Human Relations regarding Jena 6 not Old Greensboro Road related (inappropriate Halloween Decorations/hanging figure in tree)
- Barbara Jane Avenue – drug activity, trees not maintained – referred to vegetation management
- Dialogue regarding Old Greensboro Road incident
  - Property owner present – lack of education of region; renters from west coast and in need sensitivity training.
- Students from WSSU Student Government present and voiced concerns about lack of investments – retail surrounding the campus. Also very concerned about the US 52 improvement plan and how it will affect transportation to and from campus.

In our next meeting in March '08 or April '08 there will be a discussion about Budget and Youth.

There were 58 citizens and staff in attendance at this meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Yolanda G. Taylor  
 City Secretary's Office  
 Recording Secretary