**WEST PINE/ LACLEDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC**

**Minutes: 9.9.14**

President Harold Karabell opened the meeting at 7pm at NW Coffee and asked that

guest speakers could present prior to the usual order of business. (All agreed.)

1. Jennifer Florida who is pro tem Recorder of Deeds (City of StL) and previouslyan alderwoman from the Tower Grove ward. She explained her current duties--her department tracks 78,000 documents a year (birth, death, marriage, military

discharges). She is updating all policies, and currently the State Auditor is reviewing the recent years’ work of this department. She alluded to the resignation of her long tenured predecessor and her recent appointment by the mayor.

1. Regina Fowler , the Administrative Director of Rejis (Regional Justice Information Service at Boyle and West Pine), explained that her agency desires to expand the parking area on the north side of Boyle and to fence it for security, and

that a variance from current zoning would be sought. She was asking for the support of our Association for this purpose. After she presented and then left, our members discussed the issues. Dan Helmuth and Brooks Goedeker said that this lot was a valuable and desired property for other types of development and the proposed expansion would block such further taxable development. A vote was taken and all favored NOT endorsing the proposal by Rejis. President Karabell will write a response explaining our vote and its rationale.

 The regular order then proceeded. The Minutes from the August meeting were accepted. Treasurer Terry Werner reported

 that the checking acct had $442.15 and savings had $8479.44. No recent expenses.

 Committees:

1. Beautification: Mary Ann K. reported that Laura Cohen met with the Forestry staff at Alderman Roddy’s office on Aug 15, and that an action plan for new trees was agreed to for the fall/winter. If there are recent problem trees or pruning needs, please notify Laura.
2. Development: A.) Alderman Roddy announced that funding for a new Metro stop for Cortex (Boyle/Sarah/I 64) has been approved (after 15 years in the making).

B.) The Independent Center is working to purchase the NW corner at Laclede/Sarah for a three story facility for an outpatient psychiatric center on the first floor with 38 apartments on floors 2 and 3. This agency owns the adjacent apartments as well as the current outpatient center on the same block (across from the Luyties condo’s). BJC would be

providing the upfront funding although the title will be held by the Independent Center. This proposal was discussed at

length. Some noted that this would remove another property from the tax rolls. Brooks said that three developers are

interested in the same property, especially since Ikea has located nearby, and that those developers would not received

any tax abatement. A few mentioned that this agency has never been a problem in our neighborhood, and that the only

concern was the commercial value to establishing Sarah as a retail/commercial area. A vote was taken and all voted

against endorsing the proposed psychiatric center at that location.

 C.) Brooks G. said that the Red Cross purchased the much admired 4054 Lindell (Victorian house). In a complicated

 arrangement with the lofts on West Pine and an agreement for use of the large Red Cross parking lot, the 4054 site will

 be for parking for the Red Cross employees.

 D.) Other announcements: Repavement for 4100 and 4200 West Pine has been completed (with satisfaction).

 The Gerhart Bldg on Vandeventer/Laclede will be rehabbed. Nabeel will be resuming his renovation of the building

 next to NW Coffee and completion will be late fall. And the rumors of Target and Trader Joe’s planning to locate near Ikea are still rumors without confirmation.

Submitted,

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