

White Plains Council of Neighborhood Associations
September Meeting

Tuesday, 9/10/2024

Location: Meeting Held: School District Headquarters, Homestead Lane – Conference Room

Time: 7pm

CNA Attendees: Michael Sanchez, Michael Dalton, Bob Friscia, Robert Kahn, Daniel Letizia, Zack Salino, Roberta Shapiro, Howard Waldman

1. The Meeting was called to order by President Sanchez. President Sanchez introduced the meeting's topic: Plans to encourage the formation of new neighborhood associations and re-activate neighborhood associations that are not currently in the WP CNA.
2. President Sanchez reviewed the plan for the CNA to conduct a "Neighborhood Association Workshop" on October 9th. The goal of the "Workshop" would be to educate and assist residents of neighborhoods that do not have active neighborhood associations on how to form and manage a new Neighborhood Association.
3. Zack Salino expressed a concern that it was too soon (Oct 9th) to conduct a "Neighborhood Association Workshop". Zack felt that the CNA first needs to identify and contact potential leaders of potentially new neighborhood associations before we conduct a "workshop"
4. It was agreed to re-schedule the proposed Oct 9th "Workshop" to a later date.
5. Bob Friscia suggested that the CNA approach the City of White Plains (with a large database of neighborhood information) to help promote the "Workshop".
6. M Dalton suggested that CNA members contact and meet with friends living in White Plains neighborhoods that do not have associations. The goals of such a meeting would be to educate folks about the benefits of being a part of a neighborhood associations and the CNA...and... hopefully...identify persons who may be genuinely interested in forming and leading a new neighborhood association.
7. The names of Bill Somer of North Broadway and Milagros Lecuona of Old Mamaroneck Rd. were suggested as neighborhood leaders that should be contacted regarding re-starting of their neighborhood associations.
8. It was suggested that the CNA contact Ben Brown of CAWS (Coalition for Addition Without Subtraction) to enlist their support of the CNA's effort to form new neighborhood associations and re-activate dormant neighborhood associations.
9. It was suggested that the CNA contact members of the Common Council to enlist their support of the CNA's effort to form new neighborhood associations and re-activate dormant neighborhood associations.
10. It was suggested to contact the WP PTA as a source for potential neighborhood leaders who would be interested in forming a new neighborhood association or re-activating a dormant association.
11. It was suggested to contact the leadership of the WP School System to enlist their support of CNA's effort to form new neighborhood associations and re-activate dormant neighborhood associations.

12. M Dalton will reach out to contact Kelly Roper of the Prospect Park Association to encourage Prospect Park to send a representative to CNA meetings. Dalton will also reach out to friends in the Church St. neighborhood to discuss the idea of forming or re-activating a neighborhood association. Dalton will contact Debra Ziff regarding the re-development of the Good Council property and the potential of a new neighborhood association forming at the property.
13. D Letizia will reach out to contact the Gedney Common neighborhood to discuss the idea of forming or re-activating a neighborhood association.
14. Robert Kahn provided an overview of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) workshop which took place on Sept 9th at the WP Library. White Plains was awarded a \$10 million grant from the State of NY that would fund revitalization projects in the WP downtown. The DRI workshop included presentations of 17 proposed revitalization projects for the Downtown area. The projects ranged from the repair of the train station clock tower clocks to several new "pocket" parks in the downtown to the creation of a new Bike Lane on Hamilton.
15. President Sanchez closed the meeting with a reminder that the guest speaker at our next CNA meeting in October will be Planning Commissioner Christopher Gomez.