



Coventry Village News

AUGUST 1980

NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.

VOL. VI No. 8

COVENTRY PRESERVATION DISTRICT PROPOSED

By

David R. Burwasser

Cleveland Heights architect Philmore Hart, in an official report contracted by an agent of the City government, recommended that the City create a Coventry Preservation District in the Coventry commercial area. Hart spoke at the July 11, 1980, meeting of the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corp. (LDC).

In such a district, features that preserve the "village" character would be protected specifically. Under present statutes, when a building feature falls into disrepair the building owner is obliged to "repair or replace" it, or--if it is inessential--exercise the option of removing it altogether. A Preservation District would protect certain features from removal or replacement with something out of character.

Hart also proposed establishment of special assessments in the Preservation District to help meet the added costs of preservation, as well as an active search for outside funding.

Hart spoke as a member of Neighborhood Design 3, the architect/planner/designer team contracted by the Coventry Merchant Assn. (CMA) and the LDC to create design standards for the Coventry commercial district. Other members of the team are Mort Epstein, William Collins and Randall Gordon. The contract is funded out of Community Development Block Grant monies.

The LDC voted unanimously to accept the Neighborhood Design 3 report, which had already been accepted by the CMA. The LDC meeting was heavily attended by Coventry Merchants, members and officers of Coventry Neighbors, and other interested residents of Coventry and elsewhere in Cleveland Heights.

The plan also includes general guidelines for sprucing up shops that need it, while respecting the merchant's insistence that they not "wind up looking all alike"; a "people-place" redesign of the minipark in front of Coventry Yard; the cutting off and landscaping of the Coventry Road driveways into the Open Pantry/Revco compound; and a logo that has already appeared on buttons available in several Coventry shops.

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* THE NEXT MEETING OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. WILL TAKE PLACE AT *
* 7:30 PM ON AUGUST 12, 1980 DOWNSTAIRS AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY *
* 2728 LANCASTER ROAD, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS. *
*

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

By

Joan Farragher & Ed Round

June 30 meeting:

Board members Ava Hastert and Charles Byrne will draft a proposed statement relating to "chemical abuse" (alcohol and drugs). It will probably direct the staff to work with students, families and schools in both prevention and rehabilitation.

July 7 meeting:

The Board reviewed Superintendent A. J. Abromowitz' written report of steps taken to achieve the goals of the 1979-1980 year, and revised goals for the 1980-1981 year.

Minority enrollment at Boulevard Magnet School dropped from 74% to 62% and is projected at 55% this fall; while minority enrollment at Belvoir Magnet School increased from 25% to 30% and is forecast at 33% in the fall.

A program to motivate students to participate in math and science has not yet emerged. Director of Elementary Education Belva Singer said elementary teachers are uncomfortable in these areas. Director of Secondary Education Richard Arnold wants to form a select committee of teachers, university people and possibly parents to develop a program. A possible interim solution is to require two years of math or science for high school graduation.

The goal of servicing the academically gifted and talented is being approached. A coordinator has been trained in a joint venture with CSU and is 90% State-funded.

Two new goals were set for 1980-1981. Future building needs will be evaluated, in anticipation of a Lay Finance Committee finding that the total number of students in the district will be stable, although with an increased demand at the elementary level and a decrease at higher levels.

Board Member Alexander Pausley asked that a goal of energy usage reduction be added; this will be drafted.

ODDS 'N ENDS

Wasn't that a GREAT fair? Estimates are that there were close to 100,000 people in attendance during the two days. Fifty-five Girl and Boy Scouts put in better than 400 hours, running errands, finding lost children and cleaning up. They did a tremendous job. The street hasn't looked so good since last year at this time. It was nice to see newcomer "Inuit" pitching in like they were old hands, by making it possible to have a First Aid booth. Official thanks will come in a later issue - everyone is still reeling at press time (a little early this time cause of the editors vacation) anyway THANKS everyone for everything. It was a great party.

Congrats to Irv's. The ink was hardly dry last issue before new shrubs were in the flower boxes. I would like to think this pen had something to do with it.

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A FEW WORDS FOR WOMEN

Rumor has it that several rapes have occurred in the neighborhood. In actual fact, there was one victim in Cleveland Heights, and one in East Cleveland close to the Cleveland Heights border. Both rapes occurred in garages where the women were just getting out of their cars.

Good advice from the Cleveland Heights Police Department at a recent Coventry Neighbors, Inc. meeting is that to prevent these and other crimes from happening, we need to develop better "policing" habits among ourselves. As concerned citizens and neighbors, we must work toward better cooperation and trust with the police to prevent crime.

Should you suspect something amiss, Deputy Chief John Sinko and Investigators Joe Green and Larry Shaffer advise us not to hesitate to call the police.* It's not necessary to give your name if you're reluctant to do so, unless you're the victim of a crime. I'd like to add that our police are especially helpful and understanding with rape victims. Contrary to popular belief, the police are actually fairly quick in their response time on any call. They don't mind people calling them, even if it turns out to be a false alarm.

Caution is their advice to women in the neighborhood. Develop some kind of "buddy system" with friends or neighbors, so that when you have to come home alone late at night, someone can be there to meet you that's friend instead of foe.

Get it together to take precautions with your house or apartment, and lock up those doors and windows. We take the time to make sure our bodies stay healthy. Why not take the same time and care to make sure we keep our bodies safe? Our key is CRIME PREVENTION.

--Rachel Pettet

*Ed. Note: If you are near a pay phone and have no change you may call by dialing "0" and stating that it is a "Police Emergency."

As of press time a suspect has been apprehended and has been identified by both of the victims mentioned in the article above. But that is no reason to relax caution. BML

MORE ODDS'N ENDS

(Continued from page 2) It sure was a happy coincidence. It looks GREAT, Irv. Keep up the good work. How about hosing down the sidewalk occasionally.

Nina Esrati writes that Heights Guild of Artists & Artisans welcomes new members to the pottery cooperative working in the ceramics studio at Coventry Library. For further information call Nina at 371-2757 after 5 PM.

Brunatti's will re-open soon under new management with a new name. I understand it is to be an "ethnic" restaurant - Irish. Dianne's (formerly Chesters) will be in full operations soon. The bar is open now with those marvelous hot appetisers she served at the fair.

--bobbie littell

