

RIVERVIEW

Neighborhood Association

JUNE 1988

232 Ogden Avenue — Jersey City, N.J. 07307 — (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.

MEETING

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The general meeting of the River-view Neighborhood Assn. for the month of May was rather tame in comparison to some past meetings. There were no guest speakers, but there was plenty to be said.

In the absence of the chairman, who was attending a meeting at city hall, and the vice-chairman who was taking care of some personal business, it was left to the secretary Maria Tuzzo to start the meeting. Ms Tuzzo was ably assisted by Randy Sanford, who gave a lengthy report from the Planning and Development Committee. The report concerned the recent demolition of a land mark building in our area(346 Ogden) and the developers plans for this property now that it is a vacant lot. The owner is planning to construct four two-family units with ample parking.

Next was a report by Anne Hart about the June clean-up weekend. (The clean-up will have taken place by the time you read this) Anne has secured three dumpsters for the June 4th & 5th project. Carin Lewis, Flea-market chairwoman, was next up with her report about the items needed for sale, and how to obtain a table if you wish to sell your unwanted but usable "treasures". Applications must be filled out and sent to the RNA along with your payment.

These reports finished just as the chairman, Vito Brunetti, arrived from his meeting at city hall. Mr Brunetti took over and proceeded to report on the results of the budget directors

meeting. He also informed the members about meetings, both past and to come, that were being held concerning the new tax assessments. Other topics of discussion were the Loew's; contributions to our newsletter and proposed concerts for all of the city's parks this summer. The membership adjourned to enjoy refreshments provided by Gert Bogdan, Rose Scalzo, Ruth Conrad and Marie Tuzzo. Please join us next month for the regular meeting. We guarantee the evening will be informative as well as fun. The June meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor solarium of the Harborview Health Care Center.

Secretary

Maria E. Tuzzo

(PS Loretta Guardino, winner of the 50/50 drawing, was kind enough to donate her winners share to the RNA treasury. Three cheers and many thanks Loretta.)

AGENDA

JUNE 14, 1988

Guest Speaker:
Ray Spellmeyer
Sanitation Inspector

RNA Birthday
Celebration



Under the Chair

OPINION: It's about time! Two things recently occurred that will hopefully change the future of Jersey City for the better.

The first was that the State has started the legal procedure to formally takeover the Jersey City school system. The second was that the acting Police Director has unveiled an entire reorganization of the Jersey City Police Department. Whatever one may think of the correctness of these drastic actions, the bottom line is that they are urgently needed. And as with all change, there are the cries of protest. But the point is that the J.C. school system is an outrage and embarrassment to all residents...a crime to every school-age child who is the ultimate victim.

The same goes for our Police Department, that has been unable to hold the line against the rapidly rising crime problems of drugs, delinquency and dumping along with the usual urban lawlessness. The biggest local complaint has been the lack of a rapid response to crimes. Every J.C. resident has either been a victim of a crime or lives in fear of something happening to them - this is no way to live a life.

Yes, there are decent, hardworking individuals in both the school system and the police department. RNA recognizes Principal Trefurt of P.S. 8 as an able administrator and Captain Galvin of the North District as a competent officer. But the problem is with antiquated bureaucracies that are bankrupt and unable to fulfill their responsibilities to the citizens for whom they were created to serve.

We, as Jersey City residents, must realize that we are living in a

rapidly changing urban center and therefore we, as citizens, must demand a municipal government that is able to provide the services necessary to upgrade, protect and maintain the quality of our lives.

Improving the quality of life is what RNA is all about. Whether our efforts are directed to neighborhood problems or city-wide issues - we are looking to make our lives happier, healthier and safer.

In that regard, some updates:

The J.C. Parks Committee is continuing its work to implement a summer program in nine neighborhood parks throughout the City: the hiring of nine park attendants to supervise and coordinate the activities in these parks, the scheduling of a 36-concert performance program (four in each park), and the pressuring to get better police patrols and a more thorough maintenance program by the DPW.

The Ad-hoc Committee for the Friends of Riverview Park has sent a letter to the DPW requesting the program of maintenance and renovation published in last month's newsletter.

The Citizens' Committee for the Future of the Reservoirs is continuing to gather information for its research and to organize the community in its goal to present the City with a viable plan for the reservoir land. (Another piece of information: on April 28th, the City Council adopted an ordinance (#C-734) authorizing the Water Dept. to issue bonds amounting to two (2) million dollars for "the construction and installation of a new five million gallon or equivalent water storage tank at the site of City Reservoir #2.....")

The Heights Chapter of the J.C. Coalition for Fair Taxation had its second meeting on May 15th at St. Anne's Church on Kennedy Blvd. An audience of over 300 people came out and supported the efforts of the Coalition. On June 11th, the Coalition is organizing a large march and rally at City Hall (see page 14 for the announcement.)

RNA supports the efforts of the Interfaith Community Organization in its demands to rid our community of

drugs and to improve the county parks. On May 16th, the ICO had a large public rally at St. Peter's College. The ICO is a union of 35 churches from Jersey City, Hoboken, North Bergen and Union City, representing Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists. There are approximately 30,000 families involved in this organization. RNA will try to arrange to have an ICO spokesperson as a guest speaker at one of our future meetings.

The RNA Flea Market is being organized for Saturday June 11th. We hope everyone will come to Riverview Park to browse through the sales. But more important is the chance for our neighborhood to be together and enjoy the Park. We are going to have an old fashioned hot-dog cart, music and possibly an open house at Solo Studios across the street. All are welcome!

(Great idea: why not start your June 11th with the Coalition march and rally at City Hall in the morning and spend the rest of the day in Riverview Park at the RNA Flea Market....sounds good to me, hope to see you there!)

This is our last newsletter till September (our staff takes a much needed rest). RNA will still have its monthly meetings on July 12, August 9 and September 13. If there are any problems, if you have any questions, please call Vito Brunetti at 798-0493, Bob Lewis at 420-1490 or Maria Tuzzo at 659-2245.

RNA will soon send out the schedule for the summer performance concerts for Riverview Park and the other City Parks. Try and come out and enjoy the music .

Last word: It is our neighborhood and our park - take care of it like it really belonged to you - don't litter, don't drink, don't do drugs, don't vandalize or destroy property. TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROPERTY AND RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBORS. HAVE A GOOD AND HEALTHY SUMMER. SEE YOU IN THE FALL.

With summer soon to make it's arrival there's no doubt we will have to do something to combat those hot and humid days that will undoubtedly burden us once more. So, what does one do to make life just a bit more pleasant? I knew you'd ask that's why I'm coming to the rescue with my summer solutions.

-Wear comfortable and loose clothing, preferably in pastels or neutral colors, no bright reds, fushias or glaring yellows that will make people run for shelter when they see you.

-Drink cool juices or ice tea or if these are just not working I find that having a steady case of Vodka at hand not only makes you forget the heat but everything else you learned from your crawling days.

-Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables instead of entering your hell's kitchen or order out from the chinese restaurant around the corner.

-Keep your blinds closed, why burden those people that live across the street with the sight of your scantily dressed ugly body?

-Put on some music you won't want to dance or sweat to - good time to play that lite station with the static in the background.

-Take a long cold bath and wash your face in ice water a la Joan Crawford.

-Plan a picnic and escape to the country or visit your local park and sit under a tree no dog has yet to find.

-Avoid the noon hour you'll only find fierce little old ladies who take Geritol hanging out in the pharmacy in leather and studs.

-Don't run or exercise vigorously - this may very well be your last sweat.

-Take advantage of these days to visit museums and visit friends who have air conditioners.

-Wear "shades" (sunglasses), the idea of feeling cool may make you forget those dense summer rays.

-Use deodorant, It'll not only make you smell better but will lessen the possibility of causing cardiac arrest to your fellow subway commuters.

I hope these will help you to have a happy and less humid summer.



CONRAD'S CORNER

According to a recent New Jersey Transit report, it's interesting to note that ridership on trains has increased slightly but the number of bus passengers was down drastically. Because of poor service everyone has been forced to buy a car in order to get to work or go shopping. With so many cars and no place to park, the streets are almost empty at night, except for the few able to park in a garage or parking space. All of which would seem to indicate that we have reached the saturation point of cars and density of building Hudson County can support without a mass transit system.

Urban planners and the Regional Plan of the '50s advocated low-density zoning with lots of open space so that cars and busses could move about freely. Since that time, however, all the local planning boards or boards of adjustment of Hudson County municipalities have been granting variances on zoning so that overdevelopment is now choking off with gridlock whole areas of what was once an easy matter of quickly driving around town.

With all this congestion the planning board of Union City, once called the most densely populated town in the United States, is ready to O.K. two 20-story highrises in crowded residential zones of the city. Apparently oblivious of the fact that 1,000 more affluent residents will go right out and buy 1,000 more cars after they find out how poor and overcrowded our bus service is during the rush hour and almost non-existent during the day or night.

Do the planning boards and members of the boards of adjustment drive around and see what's going on or are they just obeying orders from their mayors to get as many ratables as

possible to bail out their cities? All the new construction on these projects will not be for what most residents think will be affordable housing. All the open space available like the Monastery grounds eligible for Green Acres funding will not even be applied for by the present Union City mayor, there is even talk of building over the Lincoln Tunnel cut through Union City which still provides a little bit of greenery along the highway.

With all this mad rush to build more condominiums we may wind up with too many of a good thing with a glut on the market. All of which may leave us with more affordable houses than we may be able to rent later on when people start moving away from the Metropolitan area.

New satellite cities along the highways could easily syphon off our excess population if our transportation systems bog down as Frank Lloyd Wright envisioned in his 1940 Bodacre City of the Future he designed for the automobile age.

Highrise buildings should only be permitted around a half mile of the PATH railroad stations as the rest of the country should be scaled down to one or two family homes to reduce congestion and allow for a free movement of cars and busses.

PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA

1. What Texas born President spent his early years in Abilene, Kansas?
2. What President fathered a record 14 children with two wives?
3. What President caught pneumonia at his inauguration and served only 31 days?
4. What President was Bert to his buddies?
5. What pioneering President planned and launched the Lewis and Clark expedition?

(Answers on page 11)

EDITORIAL: SAVE THE PALISADES

(The following article was written by Assemblyman David C. Kronick, North Bergen, New Jersey. It was published in the Jersey Journal on May 13, 1988.)

Recently there has been more than the usual volume of articles pertaining to the Department of Environmental Protection ruling regarding building heights on piers and waterfront development in general.

It is absolutely ludicrous to try to state the issue in terms of a fleeting view of New York vs. economic growth. Hudson County residents, government leaders and developers alike must make some hard choices. This issue, as well as other issues that pertain to Gold Coast development, really come back to our values as a society and the importance of the quality of life to area residents. What is the price of beauty? Open space? The magnificent Palisades and beautiful views of the Hudson River and New York skyline? To Hudson County residents the Palisades, Hudson River and New York skyline are our equivalent to the Black Hills, Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon.

There is little doubt but that the Palisades and skyline are one of the wonders of New Jersey, and probably the country. In Hudson County there are no rolling hills, and no mountains, unless you consider the garbage landfills. There are no pristine lakes or rivers as we find in most other counties of the state, nor do we have what the state DEP calls Greenways. What we have is a population density of more than 10,000 people per square mile.

There is a clear need, I believe, for local government to put a high priority on the preservation of openspace protection of one of New Jersey's natural wonders, the Palisades. To see that area residents share these same sentiments, just attend a local planning or adjustment board meeting. The need to support the creation of a network of Greenways is especially critical in our urban areas. Not only do I feel this way, but the President Commission on the American Outdoors

and the Governor's Council on New Jersey Outdoors strongly support this position.

Development is needed in our area - no question about that. It is just a matter of where, how much and what kind. There is plenty of work for our labor unions to perform along the Gold Coast. The Hudson River needs to be cleaned up, old roads improved, new roads constructed, a light rail system running north, south, and west constructed, more recreational areas, marina, riverfront restaurants, entertainment centers, commercial space and townhouse communities developed.

More highrise, high density, residential buildings pose an array of problems. We are already experiencing traffic jams, rush hour gridlock and inadequate parking, and we can ill afford more development that will only exacerbate the problems.

Carbon monoxide levels are already higher than acceptable levels. Cancer and pulmonary ailments in Hudson County are considered to be among the highest in the state. What do we as a society want to leave future generations?

Do we want our children to say we sold them out? That dollars dictated the direction of development not sane, moral and aesthetic values?

I am the eternal optimist; therefore, I opt that we in our combined wisdom will see the light.

Attention:

As you know from past years the newsletter is not published in July and August. The RNA meetings however are held in these summer months. So jot down the dates of the July and August meeting so that you won't miss what is happening in your neighborhood. The July meeting will be held Tuesday, July 12th and the August meeting will be held August 9th. Have a great summer and we look forward to September when we will resume publication of our newsletter.

AIDS UPDATE

A Jersey Journal article on April 12 began "Grim new statistics on Jersey City AIDS victims were released to the City Council yesterday." The news is not good. Aids continues to spread rapidly in our town and predictions are that in 3 years, one of every ten people in Jersey City will be infected with HIV, the virus thought to cause AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Since AIDS is spreading so fast, it might be a good idea for everyone to review their information about this disease which weakens and then destroys peoples' immune systems. AIDS is caused by a virus which is transmittable only through blood and sexual bodily fluids. Out of approximately 60,000 cases of AIDS in the United States, every case can be traced to these bodily fluids and not others. AIDS is transmitted by certain behaviors: sharing paraphernalia used to shoot drugs (syringes, needles, cookers, cottons and water glasses), and unprotected sexual intercourse. In the past, people became infected with this virus through blood transfusions, however, since 1985 all blood in our system has been screened by a test and all infected blood has been removed from the blood banks. There have also been many cases of perinatal transmission, that is, mother infecting her unborn fetus during pregnancy when mother shares her blood with her child. There are also a few cases (5 in the world that we know of) of mothers or wet nurses infecting infants through breast milk. Adults could not be infected in this way, because there are very few viruses in breast milk, however babies have no immune system when they're born and are much more vulnerable.

The AIDS virus has been in the United States in large numbers since about 1978. Before then, there was hardly any evidence of it. Those people who shared needles, had blood transfusions prior to 1985, or had unprotected sexual intercourse with multiple partners are at risk for AIDS.

AIDS is not a disease of certain groups of people, like gay men or drug addicts. The AIDS virus doesn't know who you are. It will infect anyone who places him or herself at risk by engaging in high risk behaviors. The New York City Department of Health has declared that regular heterosexual sex is a high risk activity for AIDS. This means that people who are sexually active with multiple partners are at risk.

We can protect ourselves in the following ways: 1 - Do not shoot drugs. If you do and you are unable to get treatment, or unable to stop, clean needles with alcohol, bleach or by boiling them. Clean all the drug shooting paraphernalia as well. After you clean the works, don't share them with anyone, ever! Drug addiction is a disease. People can be helped to stop by entering a drug treatment program; 2 - Either abstain from penetrative sexual activity or use condoms to prevent infected sexual fluids from entering your body. It is each person's responsibility to protect him/herself from the virus. Don't rely on your partner's word. MOST PEOPLE WHO CARRY THE VIRUS HAVE NO IDEA THEY HAVE IT.

When people become infected with the virus, the virus often incubates or lies dormant. During this time there are no signs and symptoms of infection. As far as studies are able to determine, people may remain in this infected, asymptomatic stage for up to 16 years. Certain things may "wake up" or activate the dormant virus. They are to be avoided by people who suspect or know that they are infected. They are: 1 - getting more AIDS virus; 2 - using the following immunosuppressive drugs; alcohol, cocaine, crack, amphetamines, amyl nitrates and butyl nitrates, called "snappers" or "poppers", marijuana; 3 - pregnancy; 4 - certain infections, like syphilis, Cytomegalovirus, Epstein Barr virus, Tuberculosis, Herpes, etc; 5 - profound and long-term stress, like severe depression or mourning. These "wake-up calls" will also help to

