

Neighborhood News

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Old Third Ward Neighborhood Association, Inc.
Winter 1995

Parking Dialogue Continues - Another Block Endangered

Neighborhood representatives could hardly believe their ears last November, when Appleton's comprehensive plan consultants did an apparent "about face" on the preservation of the Old Third Ward. At a joint meeting of Appleton's Planning Commission and the Outagamie County Property Committee, the design firm, CAMIROS, suggested that one of the options for county growth was to acquire the houses east of St. Mary's Church for parking and shelter care.

Notable houses facing extinction there would include the Lennon home (Lennon Sisters' grandfather), and the homes of Edgar and Geo. Walter (of local brewing fame). The Lennon home, now owned by OTW members Mark and Mary Beth Laux, was also visited by John F. Kennedy during his presidential campaign and has been routinely included on historical tours of the downtown area.

Needless to say, this option, included in the latest draft of Appleton's Downtown Comprehensive Plan, has been attacked by OTW Board of Directors as short

sighted, harmful to the downtown "neighborhood" and incredibly inconsistent with the plan's overall objective of preserving, revitalizing and redeveloping the residential elements which create and maintain a "24 Hour Downtown"

Old Third Ward, Inc., has since met with Mayor DeBroux and City Planner Warren Utecht over this latest concern. We have requested that CAMIROS be allowed to study the Old Third Ward situation as a separate issue. The consultants have admitted that more information is needed to thoroughly address the problem. Currently the downtown plan is under the consideration of the Appleton Plan Commission and an answer to this request has not been received.

Meanwhile, at the December OTW Board of Directors meeting, Alderman Michael Whitman shared some of the ideas he was formulating to take before the Appleton Common Council. His resolution to exchange the West Ramp for the parking lots south of Sixth Street is now in committee. Whitman is extremely concerned about the protruding fingers of county expansion and is currently working to build support for alternative ideas.

We continue to attend and represent OTW members' interests

to the Outagamie County Property Committee, the city Plan Commission and city and county staff.

St. Mary's Sends Letter of Support

In regard to the CAMIROS Downtown Plan for the city of Appleton, the Old Third Ward, Inc. was pleased to learn recently that St. Mary's Parish has chosen to clarify its position about the neighborhood surrounding it.

Responding to rumors that the Parish would welcome more parking and county development on the block east of their church, the following letter was sent January 24, 1995, to city planner Warren Utecht:

"Dear Mr. Utecht,

"This letter is to clarify St. Mary's position regarding the city/county proposal for the 300 block of South Walnut Street.

"As stated in previous conversations, St. Mary does not have expansion plans at this time. The fact there are no plans, however, does not translate into support, tacit or otherwise, for any scheme to raze homes or in any way jeopardize the integrity of our neighborhood.

"St. Mary Parish strongly supports neighborhood efforts to preserve homes in our historic section of Appleton. Indeed, as a parish we recognize and appreciate that the characteristics of our neighborhood contribute to the heart and soul of our parish.

"Please do not suggest our support on any level. If you have questions regarding St. Mary's position please contact me.

"Sincerely,

"William Rohlf
Business Administrator

"Fr. Michael O'Rourke
Pastor

"Denise DeCook
Parish Pastoral Council Co-Chair

"Margo Chadwick
Parish Pastoral Council Co-Chair"

The Parish has sent a copy of this letter to The Post Crescent.

Ten Parking Ideas Offered to Outagamie County

Just prior to Christmas an Old Third Ward survey of downtown employers' parking policies and ten short and long term ideas for Outagamie County's parking "problem" were presented to the Outagamie County Property Committee.

The results of the employer parking survey were not too surprising: unless you work for AAL or the government, you either pay for the convenience of

parking nearby or you walk - up to 5 blocks in some cases. Even if you do work for AAL in many cases you still walk. AAL also leases space in existing ramps.

Responses solicited from such major downtown players as Ameritech, Paper Valley Hotel and M&I Bank were meant to prove that private enterprise is keenly aware of the "costs" of downtown parking, and that it is "normal" for downtown employees to walk 2 to 3 blocks each day to park, or pay for closer convenience or both.

As for ways the county could provide more parking for its employees, OTW researchers poured over county studies and surveys and talked to county workers. We discovered that some parking spaces are reserved for "snow accumulation". There are no parking permits or restrictions to keep out downtown shoppers or employees from other firms. Prisoners have free parking and in some cases city police are parking in county lots.

Meters or restrictions could be lifted from nearby city streets to create more spaces. But the biggest crime of wasted space around the courthouse is the lack of a shared parking facility that could eliminate all the little private parking lots that are poking holes in and eating up land and houses around the Old Third Ward. If the city, county and private enterprise would only address this long term need together, the erosion of history, downtown population, and a vital neighborhood could stop now.

For a complete list of the Old Third Ward's Employee Parking

Options for Outagamie County or the survey of Parking Policies of Major Downtown Employers, call 733-5766.

Bumper Stickers and Window Decals Now Ready

"Save the Old Third Ward" window signs, decals, bumper stickers and buttons are now available free of charge to friends and neighbors. Call Sue Martinson at Bumper stickers are removable.

Keep our campaign alive continue displaying your signs!

Prospect Avenue Given Special Consideration

Many thanks go to the West Prospect Ave. neighborhoods and the Lawe and Meade Street residents who turned out in great numbers to support neighborhood preservation and the reconsideration of widening key streets through these historic areas.

May the momentum continue into full neighborhood organization and participation in the political arena for a brighter and richer living experience within the city limits.

We also thank Public Works Director David Vaclavik and Traffic Engineer Paula Vandehey for their patience and reconsider-

ation of the Prospect, Lawe and Meade projects until Appleton's Historic Preservation Ordinance is in place. The ordinance is expected to go before the Appleton Common Council this spring.

(An interesting side note: while in attendance of the public hearing for the arterial plan, county planner Robert Stadel was spotted in the crowd. Turns out he resides on West Prospect Avenue. For once it was nice to be on the same side, Bob!)

Committees Formed, Fund Raisers Identified

At the November 1st, 1994 Annual Meeting, President Frank Council announced the formation of five standing committees of the board. They are: **Government Issues, Events, Public Campaign, Membership and Newsletter.** OTW members who have not already done so are encouraged to join one of these committees to keep in touch with our progress and to share in the work that still needs to be accomplished. Chairpersons are also needed. Please call if you would like to serve on one of these committees.

Home Tour - Neighborhood Rummage

The Events committee is already making plans. Because of tremendous feedback from the Hearthstone Tour of Homes, Old Third Ward is now planning its own tour to include homes on the

Endangered list and those in the "threatened" area of the neighborhood. Please consider volunteering your home. It does not have to be a showplace. The Baumruk, Sager, LeRoy and Council homes experienced only positive results from last year's tour and the families thoroughly enjoyed participating.

A second proposed event - a neighborhood-wide rummage sale - receives its inspiration from a North Carolina association where everyone in the neighborhood holds their individual rummage sales on the same day or days. The event draws large crowds and creates a positive image.

Watch for dates to be released in our next "Neighborhood News". To volunteer your home, or to help with one of these fund raisers, Please call organizers Sue Martinson at _____ or Bill Anderson at _____. All proceeds will go towards National Historic Register nomination of eligible properties in the Old Third Ward.

Become a Member of The Old Third Ward

Neighbors and Friends
building a new future
for the good life in
Downtown Appleton

Send Contributions to:

Old Third Ward, Inc.
523 S. State St.
Appleton, WI 54911

Thank You to Our New Members

(Since 11-1-94)

Rebecca Baron
Michael Meyer
Dale & Michele Einerson
Jeffery Galloway
Harry & Sandy Hoecherl
Paul & Nancy Hoffman
Frank & Kathy Isaacson
James & Dawn Krueger
Mark & Mary Beth Laux
John & Joyce Long
Joseph Martin
Lisa Ritchie
Thomas Oudenhoven
Roy & Pam Ramirez
Kip & Nancy Ritchie
David & Paula Rosene
Lloyd & Elaine Schabo
Gerald & Paula Sosalla

Old Third Ward Board of Directors*

Frank Council (Pres)
Sally Johnson (VP)
Jackie Dungar (Treas)
Meg Casey (Sec)
Bruce Ladewig
Ann Sager
Bill Anderson
Dan Hulbert
Linda Muldoon

Steering Committee Advisors

Joyce Anderson
Margo Chadwick
Mary Beth Laux
Carol LeRoy
Sue Martinson

*Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. OTW members welcome anytime. Call one of the above for meeting times and place.

"Neighborhood News" is compiled and written by Sally Johnson and Frank Council.