

McKOWNVILLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

June 14, 1976

The spring meeting and election of officers of the McKownville Improvement Association was held at 7:30 p.m. at the Tom Sawyer Motor Inn. Mr. John Esler President, presided.

- Agenda items:
1. a presentation by Mr. Fred Abele, President, of the Guilderland Historical Society
  2. the presentation by the Department of Transportation on the widening and/or re-surfacing of Western Avenue;
  3. Incorporation of the McKownville Improvement Association
  4. Election of officers and Board for 1976-77.

Mr. Esler introduced the guests for the evening: Mr. Fred Abele (of the Historical Society) and the two representatives from the Department of Transportation, Mr. Dick Pierce and Mr. Jay Bowen.

The first item for discussion was the proposed incorporation of the Association. Mr. Donald Reeb gave background information on the topic and explained the item regarding the franchise tax which seemed to be of concern. Mr. Reeb indicated that after extensive research and from information available, indications were that there would not be a franchise tax for not-for-profit corporations such as ours. Discussion followed and Mr. Purdy made a motion that the officers and directors of the McKownville Improvement Association become the officers and directors of the Corporation. There was same questions to this and after further discussion the motion was amended by Mr. Finn to add that the membership of the Association empower the directors and officers of the Association to add a total of 15 board members of the Corporation; Mr. Valenti further stated that the representatives of the Corporation be the officers/directors as necessary and as deemed by the Board; a change in the by-laws would authorize this. The motion was corrected by Mr Finn, seconded by Mrs. McKinley, "that the McKownville Improvement Association Board of Directors and Officers be empowered to do all that is necessary to incorporate the Assocaition as a not-for-profit corporation as elected". Unanimous approval.

Mr. Fred Abele gave a very informative presentation on the history of Guilderland, including McKownville. He spoke of the 'drive-yourself' tour of Guilderland which individuals can take at their leisure, indicating that maps were available indicating points of interest. A publication "Old Helderberg" by Arthur Gregg was shown, and this was presented as a door prize (won by Josephine Hawk).

The major item on the agenda was the proposed widening and resurfacing of Western Avenue. Mr. Dick Pierce and Mr. Jay Bowen of the Department of Transportation were present and spoke of the need for pavement rehabilitation, the drainage problems and other items. Indications were that federal monies would be available for this project--approximately 70% federal, 30% state.

They spoke of the number of accidents in the area with the thought that traffic flow to the Thruway-Northway exit would be better if the road was widened; that total re-surfacing and widening would not be done this year--that only "trueing and leveling" would be possible. Questions from the audience were raised, including the need for bicycle paths, use of land, the updating of traffic signals, and the like. Mr. Purdy questioned the need for a median for a turning lane, indicating that something should be done to keep the traffic moving, perhaps a better signal system and the like. He also raised the question of why the necessity of taking the land on the north side of Western Avenue (the residential side) rather than the commercial side. Other points raised were the placing of underground utilities, better 'shoulders', and drainage. Mr. Pierce and Mr. Bowen indicated that DOT would not do any major work without the approval of the residents. Strong opposition was raised to the adding of a fifth lane and the consensus of the group seemed to be that some other solution could and should be found to alleviating the traffic flow other than widening. The DOT representatives indicated that residents should express concern and opinions directly to Mr. Charles E. Carlson, Regional Director, at the DOT --84 Holland Avenue. Resident input would have a bearing on the final outcome.

After a brief break, the election of officers took place. Results were:

Timothy Cohan	President
Donald Reeb	Vice President
Alice Torda	Secretary
John Davis	Treasurer

Mrs. Verla McCarville was elected to fill the vacancy for membership to 1977; terms to expire in 1979 were filled by Melvyn Behn, John Esler and Tom VanBuren.

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Mr. Timothy Cohan, presiding as the new president, reconvened the meeting. Items discussed were the flooding problems on Western Avenue; the proposed new Post Office which is to be built near Stuyvesant Plaza; the up-coming Grievance Day for assessments and the need for representation on the Assessment Board by a local resident. Mr. Whitcraft requested that the Town Board be approached and requested that McKownville be represented on the Assessment Review Board since all other areas of Guilderland had representation (Altamont, Westmere, Voorheesville, Guilderland, etc.). Also stated was that Dr. Mastrianni would be moving to his new location by the first of the year.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alice Torda*

Alice Torda, Secretary