

The McKownville Improvement Association

May 15, 1984

SUMMARY OF 1983 - 84 ACTIVITIES

Following is a report of activities of the McKownville Improvement Association during the 1983-84 year:

The annual meeting of the Association was held May 19, 1983 at the Tom Sawyer Motor Inn. Dennis Moore, Guilderland Director of Parks and Recreation, chaired a discussion of the proposal to develop a town park to be located off Schoolhouse Road.

Association officers elected for the 1983-84 year are Jim Lane, Vice-President; Dorothy Ellinwood, Secretary; Steve Witham, Treasurer; and Board members Nancy Cohen, Jim Cameron, Jim Dermody, Don Reeb, John Smircich, and Mark Watkins. Carry over Board members are Gus Baglione, John Esler, Alice Torda, Melvin Behn, and Sharon Levey. The office of President was not filled.

A very successful garage sale netting \$435 was held May 28 and 29 in order to raise funds to pay court costs generated during the Association's long fight against construction of Crossgates. Alice Torda and Margaret McKinley were in charge of the sale.

In March of '83 the Association recommended to the Albany County Engineer that safety precautions be taken on Fuller Road where SUNYA students walk between the University and Styvesant Plaza. It was recommended that a push button crossing light be placed at the corner of Fuller and Mercer Street or Fuller and the nearby access road to the University. It was also recommended that an adequate side-walk be installed between this crossing light and the Plaza and the walk kept reasonably free of ice and snow in the winter so that it can be used by walkers. In June a follow-up letter was sent to the County Engineer providing documentation on a pedestrian death and a traffic survey noted in the original letter. A response of sorts was noted some time later when the newspapers reported that the County is recommending widening of Fuller Road to four full lanes plus a bike path. The Association notified the Capital District Transportation Committee of our opposition to the plan because of the need, if the plan is followed, to take several feet of frontage from homes on the west side of Fuller. This would degrade the property severely and tend to make a race-way of Fuller Road. The County also proposed widening and altering Schoolhouse Road. The Association asked that a sidewalk and bike path be built on Schoolhouse between Shady Lane and Woodlake Apartments.

A letter was written to Kevin Moss, Town Supervisor, asking that he monitor the construction of Crossgates so as to reduce or prevent the silting of the old McKownville reservoir from runoff caused by construction. Mr. Moss sent a copy of our letter to the Department of Environmental Conservation and asked them to review the situation.

A paper drive was held October 22 and 23, 1983 at 1450 Western Avenue. Steve Witham was in charge of volunteer help.

A Meet the Candidates night was conducted at the Tom Sawyer Motor Inn the evening of October 27. Candidates for Town Office as well as for the County Legislature districts representing McKownville attended, gave statements, debated, and responded to questions from the audience.

In December of '83 the Association opposed a zoning variance of the property where the former Mobil Station is sited on the corner of Brookwood and Western Avenue. The variance was denied by the Town Zoning Board of Appeals.

One of the larger issues that arose was the recommendation by the president of SUNYA that an attached civic center and field house be constructed on the undeveloped land behind the University maintenance shops on Fuller Road and behind the residences on Warren and Mercer Streets. Mayor Whalen of Albany came out in favor of the proposal. The Association took the view that such a complex would increase traffic in the area considerably and would create parking problems on nearby streets. University officials were contacted about our concern in the matter and two officials, Vice-President Welch and Plant Director Stevens, met with Board members to outline the proposal made by the University and to consider the Association's concern. The University people said they would meet with the Board again if it appeared that the complex would be constructed in this location. Also, in connection with this, Board member Don Reeb attended a meeting of the State Senate Minority Task Force Albany Hearing on Professional Sports.

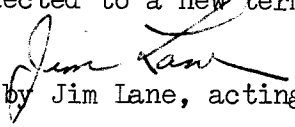
A rezoning request for the block of Western Avenue between Brookwood Avenue and Westlyn Court from B-1 to R-NB was opposed by the Association. A flyer was sent to residents within a few blocks of the location urging them to attend the Town Board meeting considering the change and voice their opposition. The zoning change was passed by the Town Board.

The annual dinner of the Association was held the evening of February 16 at the Tom Sawyer Motor Inn. Assemblyman Dick Conners was the principle speaker and Kevin and Barbara Moss were guests of the Association. The Guilderland High School Woodwind Quintet under the direction of Don Webster provided the entertainment. Forty-three dinners were served.

Board member Nancy Cohen served as the Association's representative to the Guilderland Board of Education budget meetings during the spring of '84.

Board member Don Reeb is in the process of preparing a historical overview of the McKownville Improvement Association for the centennial issue of the Altamont Enterprise, due out in July 1984.

MIA Board member John Smircich was reelected to a new term on the Guilderland Town Board.


Submitted by Jim Lane, acting President