City Ready to Move On

Coventry Parking Deck

In a long-awaited move, Members of City Council have instructed City Staff to take steps toward constructing a parking deck for Coventry Village. Little has been decided about just what sort of new parking deck will be built, but city government promises to pay close attention to the will of the citizens here, as it begins the selection process for an architect for the two level structure to be built on the east side of Coventry Road, north of Hyde Park Drive (see map, pg. 31). So far, nothing is in paper as far as scale or architectural character, but high priority will be given to preserving the natural beauty of Rock Court and to building a structure that matches the human scale of the neighborhood. To that end, City Planning Director Cheryl Stephane said, "Staff is developing a request for qualification for Council's review."

Early in the process, Coventry Neighbors made clear its key role in providing information to the neighborhood and its desire to work with the City in presenting results of a feasibility study by Walker Parking Consultants. The firm was hired by the City to study sites centrally located on Coventry to serve both ends of the business district.

With participation from the Coventry Village Development Corporation, the Coventry Merchants Association and individuals, all neighborhood factors were considered by City Council Members in what some have described as the best example they have ever seen of meaningful citizen participation. As the City's decision makers, Council Members demonstrated a commitment to an open process by instilling in citizens' views and incorporating these in their site selection.

Everyone benefited. Strong efforts to work with the neighborhood gained City Staff and Council Members greater knowledge than would have been possible had they acted alone. Moreover, the residents who participated in the give and take of the many discussions about alternative courses of action understood the rationale behind Council's final decision - Site 4.

Coventry Neighbors, long active in the City's economic planning process for the troubled Coventry merchant district, trusts that our voice and those of other organizations and individuals will continue to be listened to as substance is added to the construction plans.
CNI Meetings Set
For March 10 and
April 14

The regular monthly meetings of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Coventry Village Library, 7:45 PM. Everyone is welcome, but only dues-paid members may vote.

All memberships expire at the end of each year, so all members who have not already done so are reminded to send us your 1992 dues.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc. holds meetings the second Tuesday of every month, 7:40 PM at the Coventry Village Library. Keep the dates for the next six meetings marked in your calendar:

March 10
April 14
May 12
June 8
July 14
August 11

selected — Site 4, east of Coventry and north of Hyde Park Grille.

Although residents near Site 4 were adamantly opposed to construction of any kind, those who participated in the give and take of the many discussions about alternative courses of action understood the rationale behind Council’s final decision. Moreover, the fragile relations among citizens, merchants, and government were strengthened in the process.

An Editorial...
Neighbors Praise Open Planning Process

Meaningful citizen participation in the process of planning a community is essential. It gives people an opportunity to shape part of the urban environment they live in. Such participation helps to clarify thinking, to educate, and to form consensus about development. It helps to save a community from schemes that reflect narrow interests of developers or government alone.

Through meeting discussions, letters, and phone calls, Coventry Villagers expressed to Cleveland Heights City Council various viewpoints regarding the construction of a parking deck in Coventry Village. The genuine openness of the planning process for this project resulted in community support for the site ultimately
My Coventry Wish List

1. A kiosk for Coventry, you know, a big, large, round one, like you might see on a college campus. Would it get messy and crowded with handbills and announcements? You bet. But it would be a great way for the members of our community to communicate with one another. Let's face it, the bulletin board inside Medin just doesn't do the job.

2. I'd like to see the gasoline tax go up by at least a buck a gallon. Not only would that make for a more rational national energy policy, provide enough dollars to encourage the search for other alternatives to fossil fuels, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil supplies, but it would make it so damn expensive to live in Solon that the inner-ring suburbs like Cleveland Heights, would begin to look more attractive to home buyers. And Coventry Village would directly benefit by that!

3. I'd also like to see the store owners in Coventry force their employees to park in the far-away parking lot. That would automatically create, overnight, at least 50 parking spaces for visitors and customers—at no cost to the taxpayers whatsoever!

4. A good book store that carries out-of-town newspapers and has at least ten gazillion linear feet of magazines. Heck, Lakewood had one—why can't we?

5. More music on the street during the summer. Kudos to Arabica for their twice-a-week outdoor performances during the warmer weather. Now, how about a few nights featuring jazz, classical music, and other entertainment?

6. Valet parking in front of my apartment building for my guests. I know this sounds ridiculous...but it's MY wish list, isn't it?

7. No crime, less garbage, more parking, lower taxes, window displays that change once a month, no more old hot water tanks that stay on the front lawn for six weeks waiting for disposal, peace, love, and ice-dye.

8. I'd give up the whole list above just to have a decent grocery store on the street. I'd even settle for a small greengrocer.

Wishfully submitted by
Bruce Bowers, Past-President of Coventry Neighbors

Proposed Site For Coventry Parking Deck
Do You Have Coventry Memorabilia?

If old Coventry street fair posters, souvenir mugs and memorabilia of shops long gone bring back memories of your more youthful past, you’ll be awash in nostalgia at the exhibit currently being planned for Spring. Sponsored by Coventry Neighbors, the display will highlight the local flavor of the neighborhood during past decades. Elsa Johnson, Vice-President of CNI, is putting out a call for Coventry-related memorabilia now. She and Bruce Henness, CNI past-president, report that verbal response has been positive. Charles Owen, President of the Coventry Village Development Corporation has promised his support to the cause. Quite the history buff, Chuck also holds a Coventry historical society charter. His treasure-trove of photographs will tell more about the village than anything else can.

If you have souvenir items and materials that advertise any former or present Coventry Village place, consider displaying them for this event. Take them off the shelf, off the wall, or out of the closet. Your name will appear with the item, so you will be given credit for sharing.

"Some people don’t throw anything away," said CNI President Marilyn Pryor with a knowing look. "People call them pack rats, but they’re the kind of people needed to put on something like this." Anyone wishing to lend pieces to the exhibit should call Elsa Johnson, 371-3404. All items will be returned.

The Missing Character

Xerox though my typewriter is a 1969 model, it works just as well except for one of the keys. It is true that all the other keys work well enough, but just one key not working makes the difference. Sometimes it seems like a neighborhood organization is somewhat like my typewriter — not all the key people are working. You may say to yourself, "Well, am only one person, I won’t fix it or break it." But it does make a difference because any organization, to be effective, needs the active participation of its members. So the next time you think your efforts won’t be missed, remember by typewriter.

In short, come to your monthly mixings at the library.

Coventry Library Goings-On

Learn How to Use
The On-Line Catalog
Thursday, April 9, 7 PM
at the Coventry Village Library. Call 321-3400 to register for this free class.

Button! Button! Who’s Got the Button?
Find out May 17, 1:30 PM
Presented by the Cleveland Button Society
What’s Happening on Coventry

Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals turned down a request by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board for a conditional use permit allowing Coventry School parking lot reservation for the Centrum Theatre patron valet parking, evening hours, for a trial period March 1 through August 31. Flyer’s announcing the proposal were distributed to those most affected on Edgehill, Euclid Heights Boulevard, Washington, Woodward, and Coventry. All were invited to voice their opinions at a preliminary meeting held at the library some months before the proposal was to go before the BZA. Therefore, recent and loud opposition to the trial period surprised many who were following the issue. An unsigned flyer filled with half-truths and left unsigned may have produced the sudden change of heart...

City Staff is redesigning public signs in Coventry Village—those that regulate parking—to create better and more consistent signs directing people to existing parking lots and to improve the general appearance of the district.

Jay Gardner has accepted the position of Housing Violation Counselor for the City of Cleveland Heights. He will be working with homeowners who have both housing violations and financial problems. His goal is to reach them far enough in advance so that the problems do not become crises. Jay most recently served as Economic Development Coordinator, and he will be greatly missed at the many local development meetings here.

We are happy to welcome Laurence Goldman of Artisan's Antiques back from the hospital. Our thoughts were with him throughout his recovery.

Folks here are still wondering what’s going on in Raj Mathur’s building. The building could be a real showpiece has declined severely in the past several years. Although the old Saloon has been repainted and spruced up a bit, mom’s the word as to why. No permits have been applied for with the City, either.

New sewer and water pipes are being installed on Hampshire (West). Residents look forward to having real curbs installed, too...

Congratulations to Barbara Boyd who was sworn in as the first black woman mayor in Ohio. And if Mayor Boyd soon moves on to bigger things, we will have benefitted by her appointment no matter what its length. Those of us who work closely with city government have benefitted already.

WANTED!
More well-written, thoughtful articles submitted by our readers, to be considered for publication.

For details call 321-1835 and leave your name and number, so that I can return your call.

-- Marilyn Fryor
Regular meetings of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:40 p.m. at the Coventry Village Library, Euclid Heights Blvd. & Coventry Rd. When you join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. you can be sure of having a voice in shaping your neighborhood’s future. If you have not renewed your membership for 1992, please do so. (Remember, memberships expire each December 31.) Membership includes a subscription to the Coventry Village News.

Indicate the kind of membership you desire and complete the form:

__ Individual ($7.50)   __Family($10.00)   __Senior Citizen ($5.00)

NAME____________________ PHONE____________________
ADDRESS____________________ ZIP CODE____________________

Please return this form with your check to: COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.
C/O Marilyn Pryor
2745 Hampshire Rd., Suite 2
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106