

Next Harrison West Meeting
Thursday, July 7 at 7 p.m.
Columbus First Brethren Church, Corner of 3rd and Oregon Avenues

Harrison West News

JULY 1994

Volume 5, Number 7

From the president CRAIG S. COPELAND

Historic district status favored by majority

You may notice a different look in this issue of *Harrison West News*. It's thanks to the talented desktop publishing efforts of new editor Dwight K. Phelps. He does this for a living. Dwight creates and publishes newsletters for several businesses and associations.

At June's Harrison West Society meeting, the Development Department's Historic Preservation Officer, Diane Cole, made a presentation and spoke about the control the neighborhood could gain over planning, zoning, land use, permitting and commercial development issues that we presently lack, if the residents of Harrison West choose to become a Historical Resources Commission District.

Ms. Cole spent over an hour fielding questions from Society members about the details of the architectural review process, and said that of either of the two Commission choices, Historic Resources Commission or attachment to Victorian Village, the

review powers are the same and there is no difference between the two. She made the point that exterior changes are what are reviewed, not regular maintenance. As a rule of thumb, if you need a permit, you need a certificate of appropriateness.

Ms. Cole laid to rest the "paint color myth" saying she could not recall a time anyone had not been able to use their own choice of paint colors. Going further, she dispelled the other common myth, that owners would be required add pretentious details to make their homes into pseudo Neil Avenue mansions.

She stated later, "Most of the houses in this area are wood frame with simple details. Grand, fancy designs would not be required nor necessarily approved by either Commission. Good preservation works with the existing building and develops additions or changes that are harmonious not overbearing."

By choosing Historic District status, your front porch and the changes you might want to make at

some future date would be reviewed, but moreover, Moretti's poultry plant or other businesses, present and future, must have their site plans reviewed for appropriateness, when they want a bigger, higher capacity loading dock or parking lot, too.

Point of interest:
The Victorian Village Commission notified the Columbus City Division of Electricity that the proposed 90-foot tall power line supports that are still planned for Michigan and Fifth Avenues are reviewable structures as they pass along the northern boundary of Victorian Village. The City was requested to formally apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness. The Division of Electricity has several new options that they are contemplating for the routing, but none of them are as cheap as running the high tension lines right through Harrison West. →

SEE **Neighborhood update**
PAGE 4, COLUMN 1

Harrison West Society Minutes

9 June 1994

President Craig Copeland called the meeting to order at the First Brethren Church at 7:05 p.m.

Introduction

Craig introduced Diane Cole from the City of Columbus' Historic Preservation Office who would be speaking later in the meeting.

Treasurer's report

John Cowan informed us that the treasury contained \$601.08 and that \$243.50 was committed to the legal fund, leaving a balance of \$357.58. Craig pointed out that there remains a deficit in the legal fund of \$956.50. A motion to pay \$75.00 for the publication of the June newsletter was passed.

Secretary's report

There were no minutes from the last meeting.

Discussion

- President Copeland spoke regarding Mary Funk's efforts to contain the problems affiliated with the Zeno's situation, noting that an article had appeared in the 6 June 1994 *Columbus Dispatch* dealing with the issues. Craig pointed out that Zeno's capacity had gone from 115 to 205 people and that it could exceed 300 if the adjacent house, which is owned by one of the principals in Zeno's and his wife, is torn down for parking. Review by HWS would be unnecessary.

- Regarding Moretti's, Craig noted that his discussion with the City Attorney's office indicated that Moretti's had no plans to remove the trailer it is using adjacent to its building and that a legal fight would take years to complete. [President's note: City Attorney's office now indicates that a new deal is in the works that does not appear to be an improvement.]

- Craig noted that Battelle has placed surveyor's stakes between Third and Fourth Avenues, presumably for the planned bike path. →

SEE **HWS June minutes**
PAGE 4, COLUMN 3

US EPA says Battelle's request for permit renewal "improper"

Battelle Memorial Institute's plan for permit renewal of toxic waste storage facility on Fifth Avenue may have suffered a major setback, courtesy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The U.S. EPA recently sent notification to the Ohio EPA stating that an issuance of a renewal permit to Battelle would be "improper" and that the federal agency "cannot issue the Federal portion of the RCRA permit under these conditions."

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA is the federal legislation under which hazardous waste storage has been defined.

The position of the U.S. EPA against Battelle's proposed hazardous and nuclear waste permit is seen as a legal victory for the Battelle Permit Opposition Committee (BPOC), a local group that has been fighting the renewal permit, claiming it is dangerous and illegal because many of the normally required health and safety guidelines have been deleted from the draft permit, with Ohio EPA's approval.

Tim Wagner, coordinator of the committee, said he is not sure what the effect of the notification will be.

"We'd like to think that it's going to stop them, but it's really hard to say," he said. "We do think it's one more nail in Battelle's coffin, identifying it as an illegal permit."

Prompted by Columbus City Council, the City Attorney's office had previously confirmed the committee's position and notified the Ohio EPA of the legal problems surrounding Battelle's renewal permit.

Battelle's permit request to build the new waste facility and store up to 396 radioactive and chemical materials was presented at an Ohio EPA public meeting on November 1, 1993. Since then, resident opposition has grown, especially following the discovery of a 1992 audit of

Battelle's nuclear program showing nearly 200 safety violations. On 29 March 1994, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission formally cited Battelle for failure to protect radioactive

material from unauthorized access. The BPOC includes residents of Dennison Place, Harrison West, Italian Village, the University area, Victorian Village and public interest groups.

The Battelle Quiz

1. How many different toxic chemicals does Battelle want to store?

- a) 88
- b) 114
- c) 243
- d) 396

2. The half life of a radioactive isotope is the number of years that must pass before the level of radioactivity is reduced 50%. What is the half life of uranium-238?

- a) 1/2 year
- b) 7 years
- c) 238 years
- d) 4,468,300,000 years

3. How many different radioactive isotopes does Battelle want to store?

- a) 1
- b) 101
- c) 1001

4. Battelle is requesting permission to store hazardous and radioactive waste in a 100-year flood plain. Does federal or state law permit this?

- a) yes
- b) no

5. Battelle is requesting permission to store hazardous and radioactive wastes next to the Olentangy River. What would be a safer location for this storage?

- a) on a barge in the river
- b) in Dr. Brog's garage
- c) in a facility located above all flood plains, away from drinking water sources, and away from densely populated neighborhoods

6. The 1992 Battelle audit found, and the 1994 Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection verified, Battelle's loss of how many containers of plutonium?

- a) 1
- b) 3
- c) 5
- d) 1000

7. On March 29, 1994, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission cited Battelle for failure to protect radioactive material from unauthorized access.

- a) true
- b) false

8. Nine of Battelle's buildings are radioactively contaminated. What is Battelle's ranking in the U.S. in terms of dollars required to cleanup its facilities between 1991 and 1997 and how many millions of dollars will it require (select 2 answers)?

- a) 1
- b) 11
- c) 111
- d) 1111

9. What are Battelle's options for its contaminated Building 3?

- a) continue using it to store radioactive waste
- b) remove duct work, drainage systems, and interior walls
- c) tear down the building and ship it to the State of Washington
- d) all of the above

ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 5

Harrison West News

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* * * **HOME OF THE MONTH** * * *

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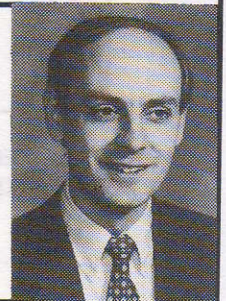
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Neighborhood update

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1, COLUMN 3

A preference poll taken of Society members during the question and answer period following Diane Cole's presentation, was greater than four to one to pursue joining the Historical Resource Commission or, alternatively, becoming a part of the Victorian Village Commission, while maintaining the identity of our neighborhood through the Harrison West Society. The Development Department has been requested to initiate a historic site survey to be done to determine the types buildings and the boundaries for this purpose.

The Battelle Laboratories appear to be leaking internal documents again, as well as plutonium-239, cesium-137, and cesium-134 at the West Jefferson laboratory. The *Columbus Dispatch* reported in its Sunday, 26 June edition of having obtained three Battelle laboratory reports. Building JN1, a so

called "hot cell" lab has been leaking radioactive material that has blown off in a plume from roof top leaks. This lab west of Columbus is the nuclear research facility that Battelle built following the poisoning from radioactive contamination and closure of several labs at the King Avenue facility. This story follows another leaked document, a 1992 internal audit of Battelle's nuclear program showing nearly 200 safety violations. Total projected cost to cleanup the Battelle Columbus Laboratories is \$111,000,000, making it the 11th most expensive radioactive clean-up project in the U.S., according to the 14 December 1992 *U.S. News and World Report*.

Another article from The Dispatch, Saturday, June 25th, describes the squabbling between the various regulatory agencies, U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission over Battelle's toxic waste storage permit renewal and their subsequent request to increase scope of the hazardous materials stored on site, if the permit is renewed. It is time for the Harrison West Society to get up to speed on this issue. If you have a background on this "hot" issue or an affinity for trying to synthesize the piles of existing agency documents that have been filed into a report for the Society, please come to the 7 July meeting and we will form a focus group. ♦

HWS June minutes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1, COLUMN 4

Discussion continued

The construction of that bike path is four years away.

[President's note: Battelle wants to trade the bike path right of way along the river in exchange for the City vacating the streets and alleys, giving Battelle a solid tract of land from Third Avenue to Fifth Avenue that is zoned Commercial 2. This will become the largest undeveloped tract of land in Harrison West. As an interim use, wouldn't a 50-year lease to the City's Recreation and Parks Department be a better deal?]

• Craig stated that the City is looking at other pathways for the 90-foot power poles and accompanying power lines and that the City had promised to come back and talk to HWS before proceeding with any construction.

Diane Cole's presentation

• By having historical district status, any permits must be reviewed by the proper commission before issuance.

• Historical district status would be a important tool in fostering appropriate commercial development.

• Architectural review would facilitate the construction of residential structures appropriate for the neighborhood.

• Harrison West is within the boundaries of the National Register of Historic Places: there is no control upon the property owners because of this designation, just recognition.

• Historic district status can add value to the neighborhood over time: e.g., German Village.

• A preference poll was then taken to see whether HW should consider taking further steps to become part of a historical review district (either of the options described above) and the vote was in the affirmative 28-6.

• There are two ways for the people of a neighborhood to achieve historical district status:

1. They can attach themselves

to an existing historical district by an affirming majority vote of the property owners and the affirmative vote by the existing historical district (the Columbus City Attorney is currently reviewing the method by which the property owners of the existing district can affirm).

2. They can join the Historic Resources Commission (HRC) and create a district of their own which can, in essence, set the standards by which the HRC (9 members) examines the pertinent issues: zoning, architectural review, etc.

(Harrison West is now deemed to be so-called "worker houses.") For this proposal to be defeated, a majority of property owners must vote in the negative (i.e., a "no" vote is then equivalent to a "yes" vote).

• The next step would be to decide upon boundaries for the proposed district.

• Of the two options, it would take longer to join an existing district than to create our own.

Adjournment

President Copeland adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

—Submitted by

Kevin Rouch, HWS SECRETARY

7 July Meeting Agenda

Call for "policy wonks" to study Moretti's zoning and building regulations, Ohio Department of Agriculture issues and to catalog transit truck destruction of sidewalks and structures.

Call for focus group on Battelle permitting issues.

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Short North neighborhood crime prevention forum

On 6 August 1994, Saturday, a Short North Neighborhood Crime prevention forum will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Third Avenue Community Church, located at 1066

North High Street. The forum is free, open to the public and will be immediately followed by a free spaghetti dinner for participants. This forum, focusing on grass roots

crime prevention, is in response to requests from are residents, business and community service agencies. The Neighborhood Crime Prevention Forum is coordinated by Short North Business Association in partnership with the Short Stop Teen Center and the Health and Wellness Program of the Third Avenue Community Church.

The crime prevention forum will focus on building a healthy and safe community utilizing the wealth of human resources available in our neighborhood. Everyone is urged to attend.

The forum is free but pre-registration is encouraged. Pre-registrants are eligible for door prizes. To register, and for information, call Jackie Calderone at 291-8920.

Battelle Quiz Answers

1. **d** Battelle's original permit allowed storage of 88 different federally classified hazardous wastes. Battelle wants to increase this to 396 different toxic wastes.

2. **d** This stuff does not go away very quickly.

3. **b** Does this give you a high comfort level?

4. **b** Federal and state law specifically prohibit storing hazardous waste in a 100-year flood plain or on an earthquake fault line.

5. **c** This would meet the law's requirement of presenting the minimum risk to the environment.

6. **c** Battelle cannot account for 5 containers of plutonium-239, 2 containers of cesium-137, and 2 containers of americium-241.

7. **a** This is one of the violations found in the 1992 audit which Battelle said it had immediately corrected. This is one way radioactive materials get into the wrong hands.

8. **b and c**
On 14 December 1992, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Battelle Columbus Laboratories as the 11th most expensive radioactive cleanup project in the U.S. Total projected cost is \$111,000,000.

9. **d** This is serious!

The Battelle Permit Opposition Committee is entering into the legal phase of its fight with the Ohio EPA. This will be an expensive proposition and we need your help. Small contributions are fine, but we really need big checks. The Committee has spent hundreds of hours working to protect our City from corporate pollution. Can't you make a sacrifice, too, and donate \$200?

Battelle Quiz/Answers submitted by BPOC

3rd & Michigan Avenues

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We also want to welcome Doug Rose of Future Realty, 433 West Third Avenue.

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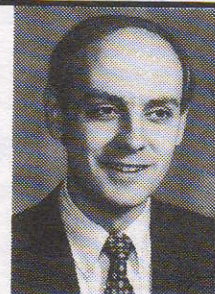
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Vacation Bible School. The Columbus First Brethren Church will be holding Vacation Bible School on July 11 through July 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Church is located at 473 West 3rd Avenue on the corner of Oregon Avenue. To register, fill out the registration form at the bottom of this page. For more information, call Carol Minniear at 299-0542.

Summer Lunch Program. The Godman Guild's Summer Lunch Program began June 20. The free lunches are available to youths 18 and under every Monday through Friday. Contact the Guild at 294-5476 for times.

Godman Guild Preschool. Classes are from late September until mid-May and focus on developing school readiness skills. Classes for 3-5 year olds are Monday to Thursday. Morning classes are from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. After-noon classes are from 1:30-4 p.m. For more information, call 294-5476. To register, stop in at the Guild office at 321 West 2nd Ave.

Community Exchange. To place your **free** Community Exchange ad or announcement—*individuals only*—mail your notice to:

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Harrison West News
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or fax the same to 291-7540. Please include your name and telephone for verification. Depending upon space, non-profit organizations are also welcome to send their announcements.

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