

May 13 Minutes -- full of info
Michigan Market rehab tables parking variance
Fresno restaurant review -- explore the possibilities

The Harrison West Society will meet
Thursday, June 10, 7:30 PM, Godman Guild,
321 W. Second Avenue
Council Candidate Angela Bosworth
Short Business Meeting
Home before dark!

Harrison West News

June 1999

"A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places"

VOL. 10 NO.6

Michigan Market Parking Variance Tabled by Applicants

Victorian Community Developers partners Dean Adamantidis and James Sicaras have requested that the Board of Zoning Appeals table the hearing on their request for a variance to allow for no parking for the Michigan Market redevelopment.

The City Zoning staff had recommended disapproval of the "Zero parking" variance, but did not formally reject the variance, as the request has been tabled.

At the last meeting, the Harrison West Society members opposed the parking variance application, but expressed a determination to work with Adamantidis and Sicaras to fit their restaurant successfully into the neighborhood.

In case you missed the last few issues of the Harrison West News, here's some background on this issue.

Adamantidis and Sicaras are rehabbing the Michigan Market for upstairs offices and downstairs restaurant.

They submitted a "Statement of Hardship" in March to the city's Board of Zoning Adjustment. The property is currently zoned C-4, so no zoning change is necessary. However, a restaurant would be a "change of use" that requires parking to be provided for employees and customers. Their request for a complete exemption ("Zero Parking") is the request that has been tabled.

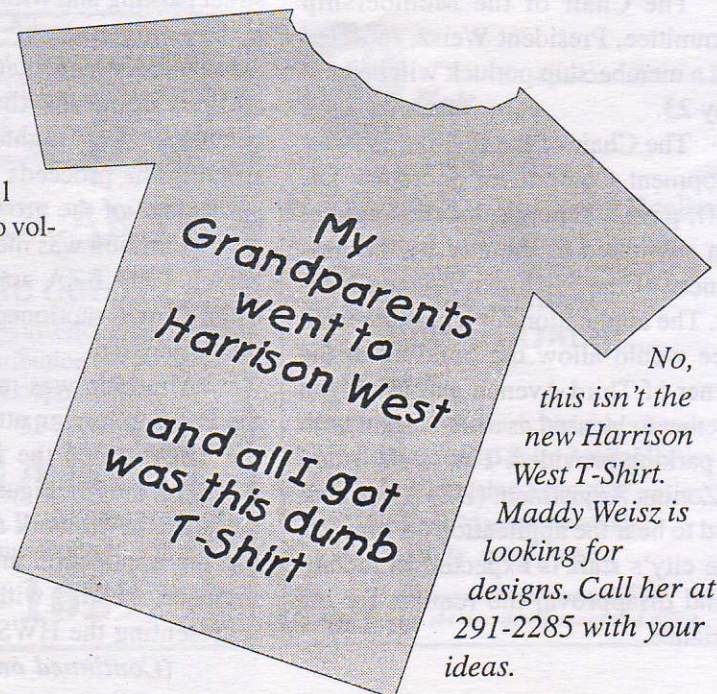
Harrison West Public Arts Committee to Have Booth at ComFest

The Public Arts Committee is designing T-shirts celebrating Harrison West. These will be sold at a Harrison West Booth at the Community Festival on June 25, 26, 27. The proceeds from the shirts will go towards our Public Arts Project. The booth will support all our efforts in the neighborhood.

We are looking for volunteers for the booth. Join the Public Arts Committee at ComFest; sell T-shirts, talk to the community about Harrison West, and enjoy the scene. Call Maddy 291-2285 to volunteer.

New Harrison West Society Officers Elected

At the last meeting, Maddy Weisz was elected President and Mary Funk was elected Vice President. Keith Dimoff and John Cowin were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Watch the newsletter for more information about our elected leaders. Come meet Madam President and Vice President at the meeting, Thursday, June 10.



HARRISON WEST SOCIETY MINUTES

May 13, 1999

Submitted by Keith Dimoff, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:40 P.M. at the Godman Guild by outgoing President Craig Copeland. Introductions were made around the table.

President Copeland said he's had a great time as President, then asked the Secretary to read the nominations made at the April HWS meeting. The nominations were Maddy Weisz for President, Mary Funk for Vice President, John Cowin for Treasurer and Keith Dimoff for Secretary. The slate was approved unanimously. President Weisz took over.

A motion was made to approve the April meeting's minutes as printed in the Harrison West News; Dimoff motioned; Cowin seconded; passed.

Treasurer Cowin presented the Treasurer's report. Cash-in-hand is approximately \$4569. A motion was made to pay the routine HW News bills; Cowin motioned; Bledsoe seconded; passed.

The Chair of the Membership Committee, President Weisz, reported that a membership potluck will be held May 23.

The Chair of the Planning & Development Committee, Secretary Dimoff, gave a summary of the application submitted to the city by the new owners of the Michigan Avenue Market. The application for a parking variance would allow the building at the corner of Third Avenue and Michigan Avenue to be used as a restaurant with no parking provided. The city's Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) is scheduled to hear the application on May 25. The city's staff is expected to recommend disapproval the request for the variance.

New owner Dean Adamantidis said that he and his partner Jim Sicaris have met with Chris Miller, part owner of Zeno's, located at Third and Pennsylvania, to obtain a lease for twenty parking spaces. Cars for the new restaurant would be parking at the lot on the southwest corner of Third and Pennsylvania. As part of his efforts to obtain the city variance and to get a lease from Zeno's, Adamantidis asked that the HWS pass a motion to endorse this proposal. No HWS member made such a motion.

Several questions were asked of Adamantidis. Regarding the upstairs of the building, Adamantidis said that their plans for offices are consistent with previous zoning. The downstairs would be a restaurant with a Greek influence. Regarding the work they've done to date, Adamantidis said that a demolition permit is not required.

A resident of Michigan Avenue expressed concern with the lack of on-street parking and with the potential for a bar instead of a restaurant. Adamantidis said that he's willing to address concerns that the building could become a nightclub, such as restricting the proceeds from liquor to a percentage of the gross sales.

A motion was made to oppose the March 1999 BZA application (#V99-022); Cowin motioned; Copeland seconded; passed.

A motion was made to authorize the HWS to hire an attorney to work at the direction of the HWS Executive Board on the Michigan Market parking variance, to do work such as researching the application and a city council variance, meeting with the owners, and representing the HWS at the BZA.

(Continued on Page 3)

Harrison West News

is the monthly publication of the Harrison West Society, Inc.

Officers

PRESIDENT

Maddy Weisz 291-2285

VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Funk 2911-9545

SECRETARY

Keith Dimoff 424-6798

TREASURER

John Cowin 291-7063

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Editor Veda Gilp 299-6877

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Harrison West Society meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Godman Guild, 321 Second Avenue, 7:30 PM.

Harrison West Society Minutes

(Continued from Page 2)

Funk motioned; Bledsoe seconded; passed.

The Chair of the Public Art Committee, President Weisz, reported that the grant application remains pending but fund-raising efforts continue. A HWS booth at the Community Festival at Goodale Park in late June will sell T-shirts. A motion was made to budget up to \$1000 to buy T-shirts and a banner; Cowin motioned; Funk seconded; passed.

Regarding the Urban Infrastructure Recovery Fund, Copeland expressed shock that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under the National Historic Preservation Act which covers the lot at 579 West Third Avenue had been broken. He advocated the hiring of an attorney and said the HWS has the legal standing to protest. A motion was made to send a letter to the appropriate federal agencies, copying local government, objecting to the sale of the lot as a violation of the MOA; Weisz motioned; Copeland seconded; passed.

Secretary Dimoff noted that a packet of background information has been given to the city and that the UIRF application was still pending with the city.

The Chair of the Traffic Committee, Craig Copeland, reported that some successes have been won by Citizens for a Better Spring-Sandusky Interchange and that more improvements are possible. The threat of a lawsuit remains.

The alley cleanup is set for May 15. VP Funk has arranged for trash pickup.

Copeland reported that many cars were towed from Vermont Place for the city's street sweeping.

The Harrison West Park at Oregon and Fourth will be cleaned and mulched on May 15.

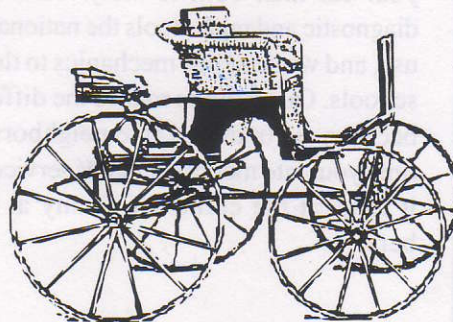
For the Planning and Development Committee, Dimoff reported that the bike path has been partially staked and that Battelle has not yet scheduled a follow-up meeting on its master landscaping plan.

VP Funk reported that Angela Bosworth, candidate for City Council, will be the speaker at the June 10 HWS meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the business meeting; Cowin motioned; Dimoff seconded; passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Educational Opportunities

The United Way sponsors a series of classes which provide neighborhood residents and community groups with management and technical strategies and tools that they can immediately apply to the neighborhood. Coming up in June are "Developing Projects in your Neighborhood" and Economic Development Planning. The cost for these courses is \$5.00. Call the United Way at 227-2700 to register or Maddy at 291-2285 for more information.



Harrison West Potluck a Success

Esther Silverman and Jay Weitz hosted the annual membership potluck May 23 at their home at 443 Vermont Place.

What a beautiful house they have! There was a lot of good discussion about the neighborhood, and the food was the best yet! The desserts were memorable. Thanks to Jay and Esther for sharing their home and to everyone who attended.



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Alley Cleanup Made Neighborhood Sparkle

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Eadie Gourmet Eats Out At Fresno

(Continued from Page 6)

About those entrees ... the wood-fired pork loin BBQ with three potato mash is, as the menu says, "delicious!!!" But abandon your aversion to beef for a change and go for the beef tenderloin with zinfandel demi glaze and scalloped potatoes. So you don't eat beef for another two weeks -- it's worth it. Especially if you ask for it rare, and if you are lucky enough to be there on an evening when you can substitute asparagus for the broccoli.

Now for the pizzas and pastas ... Maddy had the smoked chicken and caramelized onion pizza and declared it "wonderful." She was right. (I sneaked a piece of hers.)

I ordered a custom pizza of basil, fresh sliced tomatoes, and mozzarella. Though this was not on the menu, the young man making the pizza got the balance on the ingredients perfect. It was delicious.

Though we didn't try their spicy black bean, corn and roasted red pepper pizza, the people at the table next to us did, and it looked and smelled divine. I'm trying that next time!

Everyone does pasta and Thai noodles these days, and Fresno is no exception. I've been delighted with their chicken, wild mushroom, asparagus, and yellow pepper oil with fresh spinach linguini.

Their Jambalaya pasta with jumbo prawns was just so so, possibly because

the prawns were tough that particular night.

Do try the polenta lasagna with balsamic tomato sauce, ricotta cheese, artichokes and mozzarella, baked, and topped with basil pesto. Perhaps it's just my near addiction to basil and artichokes, but I have put this on my Must Eat list.

As for desserts, they not only change frequently, usually I'm too full to order one. So you'll have to explore for yourself.

Harrison West Society Membership

Sign me up with the Harrison West Society

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your appropriate contribution to Harrison West Society, Membership Committee, 1219 Harrison Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Membership dues are paid annually.

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Eadie Gourmet Eats Out At Fresno

by Veda Gilp

Fresno in the Short North isn't new, but that shouldn't stop you from exploring this fine restaurant. Actually, Harrison Westers are really lucky, located as we are in the heart of three of the top restaurant concentrations in Central Ohio. (If you just moved here, that's the Short North, the exploding restaurant population on Olentangy from Third to Kinnear, and Grandview Avenue.)

Harrison West Prez, Maddy Weisz, and I dined at Fresno's recently, after an invigorating walk through the park to get there.

I know I go on about salads, but once you get past iceberg, there's a world of tastes, textures, and combinations. You can explore wonderful salads at Fresno. Their House Mediterranean Salad with mixed greens, marinated cucumbers, tomatoes, onion and feta cheese is a good Greek-type salad. I recommend it.

The Salad prize, however, goes to their fresh spinach, strawberries, and gorgonzola in honey balsamic vinaigrette with slivered red onion and toasted walnuts. It's lovely.

One of the things I like about Fresno is that they are willing to experiment right along with you when you order something off menu. And they do a good job of it.

Also, you can go there for a four course dinner of salad, appetizer, and big entree, plus dessert. Or you can stop by with a friend for a shared salad and pizza and some wine.

(Continued on Page 5)

Harrison West News
996 Pennsylvania Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201

Welcome New President Weisz
Michigan Market Parking Variance Tabled
Harrison West T-Shirts at ComFest



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