

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
April 23, 2012

Present: Betsey Baun, Christina Cantrell, Linda Fusco, Khalil Perilstein, Cathy Scott, Bert VanderVeen, Dave Wharton, Shawn Wriede

Absent: Fabio Camara, Sara Farnsworth, Lillian Govus

Guests: Officer Douglas E. Campbell, Residents Mindy Zachary, Pam Grigsby and John Redmond of Home Energy Solutions.

Meeting Called to Order: 6:35 pm

This month's HISTORIC MOMENT: *Historic rehabilitation activity is often a counter-cyclical activity that **stabilizes** the local economy. While some see historic preservation as an activity that can only be afforded in prosperous economic times, the opposite may be true. Many cities have found that historic preservation is one of the few bright spots when the rest of the local economy is in the doldrums. Why? Most preservation projects are modest in scale, therefore more affordable when large new construction is not. And since LOCAL labor and suppliers get a MUCH larger share of total expenditures in rehabilitation projects than in new construction projects, dollar for dollar preservation has a more positive LOCAL economic impact*

1.) Community Resource Officer Report: Officer Doug Campbell reported the following **police incidents between Mar 26 and Apr 23, 2012:** Apr 1 – two wallets stolen from the console of an unlocked truck at 510 Yanceyville St. (War Memorial Stadium). Apr 1 – car stopped at intersection of Cypress St. and Dewey St. discharged what sounded like a firearm, but appeared to be an air gun. Driver was cited for possession of brass knuckles. Apr 5 – basement door of 810 Cypress St. forced open, water pipe was cut and water flooded the basement. The house has been vacant since 2009 and the yard is overgrown, blocking clear view of basement entrance. No suspects at this time. Apr 17 – motor vehicle parked at Bill Black Cadillac had leather seats stolen. Apr 17 – men's 10-speed dark blue bicycle stolen from 747 Park Ave.

Officer Campbell stated there is new LOE link to enable residents to **check on ongoing cases and to file a new complaint.** He will send us the link.

Action Item for Doug Campbell: Send link to check ongoing cases and file a new complaint.

Officer Campbell stated that he received a request from a Park Ave resident to investigate women smoking on the porches of two vacant houses in close proximity to Room at the Inn. Officer Campbell would like the property owners of the vacant houses at 640 and 641 Park Ave to post "No Trespassing" signs.

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

April 23, 2012

- 2.) **Special Speakers: John Redmond of Home Energy Solutions** provided a review of his services, which are **complimentary energy audits** that summarize and prioritize suggested improvements to a home in order to reduce energy costs and increase comfort. The prioritization is done according to the payback value. For example, Mr. Redmond's company does not recommend replacing windows because the cost of replacement windows is so high and the improvement in energy savings is so low, that the payback may take many years. Mr. Redmond stated his company offers the free service in anticipation that a homeowner might use them to contract for the improvements. A product that Mr. Redmond demonstrated is an interior storm window, made of acrylic, and attached to a window jamb via magnets. This is an energy improvement that does not require a COA because it does not affect the exterior. Mr. Redmond asked to partner with the board to promote his service, but the board is not an appropriate venue for advertising. However, since residents of Aycock are always looking for craftsman for specific work, it was determined that adding the name to the **tradesman page** of the website is appropriate. Home Energy Solutions is sponsoring one of the homes on the 2012 Tour of Historic Homes (Sunset Hills) in May and will be demonstrating the interior storm window product which is another way to advertise. The newsletter is an excellent forum to showcase services and products. The Pecan Festival in October is also a good venue for vendors. Several board members expressed interest in having an energy audit performed on their homes.
- 3.) **President's Report:** Bert VanderVeen stated that **City Council elected to defer any decision on War Memorial Stadium improvements** for 90 days until a study can be done to determine the condition of the concrete and to search for options other than demolition of a major portion of the structure. There appears to be renewed interest on the part of City Council to reinvigorate the area and War Memorial Stadium as a gateway to north Greensboro and as a community/athletics venue is a good start. The board decided that **Mr. VanderVeen and David Wharton are excellent point persons** who will coordinate a unified message from the neighborhood and will suggest appropriate action as needed, such as phone trees, letter-writing campaigns, attendance at selected meetings, etc.
- 4.) **Secretary-Treasurer report: Minutes from the March 2012** board meeting were reviewed and approved. The **Treasurer** report was distributed. There is currently \$3,311.91 in the General Fund with an additional \$3,211.15 in escrow accounts.
- 5.) **Community Development:** Betsey Baun had updates on two items:
1. **Street sign toppers have been installed** on the initial set of street signs.

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
April 23, 2012

2. Ms. Baun sent a legal letter regarding the **Neighborhood Small Projects grant** to the city legal staff for review. She also sent the letter of support from Guilford County Schools for review.

- 6.) **Community Watch:** No report this month.

- 7.) **Historic Preservation (COA):** Linda Fusco reported no COAs this month.

- 8.) **Newsletter:** Linda Fusco is still owed for two newspaper ads. She will follow-up.

- 9.) **Technology:** Shawn Wriede provided a list of people who are registered on the listserv but their address shows they do not live within the Aycock neighborhood boundaries. The decision was made to retain community resource officers (Doug Campbell), Fisher Park residents, business owners in or in close proximity to the neighborhood (such as Cafagency), and city staffers who work closely with the neighborhood, such as HCD. The rest of the list (including former residents who no longer live in Aycock) will be deleted by Mr. Wriede.

- 10.) **Welcoming Committee:** No new residents this month.

- 11.) **Old Business:**
 1. **Permanent trashcan at Leftwich Tunnel:** David Wharton reported that temporary trash cans have been placed at the tunnel, but they are not emptied by the city. Mr. Wharton decided to request the trash can to be placed on the **other side of the tunnel** which would then be in the downtown district and would be emptied.

 2. **Breedlove planting project:** Planting is complete, although the final payment to Great Atlantic has not yet been made. Linda Fusco was asked by a resident about potential rain run-off until the landscaping matures. She will ask Great Atlantic for recommendations. The consensus is that the newly landscaped area looks very nice.

Action Item for Linda Fusco: Contact Great Atlantic Landscaping for recommendations to control rain run-off on the newly planted Breedlove Radiator site.

 3. **Park Ave stone wall repair:** Linda Fusco stated that the city has not selected a slate of potential vendors at this time.

 4. **Strategic Plan:** Lillian Govus was unable to make the meeting this month.

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

April 23, 2012

5. **Great American Cleanup:** The Greensboro Beautiful-sponsored event was held on Saturday, April 21. Over 20 volunteers cleaned up litter and trash in the neighborhood.
6. **Summit/Murrow interchange:** David Wharton, Betsey Baun, and Mindy Zachary reported that **City Council approved the SECU plan and the land swap**. However, SECU does not wish to alter their site elevation plan to conform to downtown design guidelines. They are planning to build a number of new branches in Greensboro in the next year and do not wish to spend the additional time and money to develop a customized design for this location. SECU also intends to demolish the Pet Dairy building; Preservation Greensboro, Inc. has been contacted to see if its Development Fund can be tapped to save the building. Mr. Wharton suggested that **Aycock efforts might be better served if the neighborhood targeted and encouraged developers** who adhere to design guidelines developed by neighborhoods.

12.) New Business:

1. **Cathy Scott officially resigned her board position** because she accepted a teaching position at a university in South Carolina and is planning to move this summer. Ms. Scott's contributions during her tenure as a board member are greatly appreciated; she will be missed.
2. **Next month's meeting** falls on Memorial Day. The meeting was moved to **Monday, May 21, 2012**.
3. **Little Free Library:** Discussion on this topic was tabled for the next board meeting due to the late time.

13.) Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 pm.