

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
December 5, 2011

Present: Betsey Baun, Christina Cantrell, Sara Farnsworth, Linda Fusco, Lillian Govus, Bert VanderVeen, Shawn J. Wriede

Absent: Fabio Camara, Khalil Perilstein, Cathy Scott, David B. Wharton

Guests: Resident Hope McLean, Officer Douglas E. Campbell, Business owner Clint Spivey, City of Greensboro, Planning and Community Development Stefan-leih Geary

Meeting Called to Order: 6:37 pm

1.) Community Watch Report: Officer Doug Campbell asked if the police crime reports should be placed on the Aycock website, but since the police districts and the historic boundaries do not match, the board decided posting the statistics is not advisable. Officer Campbell reported theft of hand truck from company vehicle parked at 602 Summit on Nov 10, a robbery at Wendy's on Nov 14, hit and run on Summit Ave on Nov 15, domestic disturbance at the Executive Center on Nov 18, theft of range, books, linens from vacant house at 600 Summit Ave on Nov 18, theft of license plate from vehicle on 519 Park Ave on Nov 19, theft of cell phone from a Piedmont Natural Gas company truck parked at 814 Cypress on Nov 22 (cell phone was recovered and the suspect arrested), robbery at Executive Center on Nov 24 (suspect was arrested), theft of non-working vehicle parked at 821 Fifth Ave on Dec 2, and domestic disturbance at 421 E Hendrix on Dec 3.

2.) President's Report: Bert VanderVeen reported that **1200 bags and lights for luminarias are ordered from Illuminations** for the event on **Sunday, Dec 11, 2011**, starting at dusk. This coincides with Fisher Park's luminaria event. The weather is forecast to be dry. Luminarias can be purchased and/or picked up on Sunday starting at noon at Sternberger Park until 4 pm for \$10 per dozen. Note that pre-orders (\$8 per dozen) are available via PayPal, accessible via the Aycock webpage, until Dec 9 at 9:00 pm. Christina Cantrell will take the first shift on Sunday from noon until 1 pm and Bert VanderVeen will take over at 1 pm.

Action Item for Linda Fusco - Email second reminder for luminarias

3.) Secretary-Treasurer's report: Minutes from the October board meeting were distributed, reviewed, and approved on condition of rewording profit and loss sentence for Pecan Festival. **Treasurer's report** for September was distributed.

Action Item for Christina Cantrell - reword last sentence on Pecan Festival in October meeting minutes for clarity.

Action Item for Shawn Wriede - post corrected and approved minutes on Historic Aycock District website.

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4.) Newsletter: Christina Cantrell presented a **profit-and-loss statement for the newsletter** for every quarter since January 2009 which shows an average loss of \$200.47 per issue. The board discussed several options but agreed that the newsletter should be structured to pay for itself. Linda Fusco, Newsletter Editor, is placing ads only if pre-paid. Sara Farnsworth questioned whether submitting an article in lieu of paying for an ad can be continued due to potential loss of advertising revenue. It was suggested that a 4-page newsletter may be sufficient for 3 of the 4 quarters that the newsletter is published, with a larger publication once a year. The board decided that it would work towards the goal of having the newsletter pay for itself by the end of 2012 and will reconsider at that time whether to continue the effort.

In other newsletter matters, Linda Fusco **asked for articles for the January newsletter**. Sara Farnsworth volunteered to write a restaurant review.

5.) Community Development:

- a. **Sign toppers** – Betsey Baun reported that the project will be handled via **city staff approval** and does not require a COA. The city is ready to move forward after the contract is signed.
- b. **Neighborhood Small Projects Program** – Ms. Baun planned to resubmit the sign proposal that Laura Wall previously submitted for 3 neighborhood signs at the corners of :
 - i. Yanceyville St. and Bessemer Ave.
 - ii. Cypress Ave. and Bessemer Ave.
 - iii. Lindsay St. and Yanceyville St.

However, after meeting with Russ Clegg, it was discovered that each sign would cost approximately \$18,000 but that is the limit of the grant. The **board voted unanimously that a sign at Yanceyville St. and Bessemer Ave. would have the most visibility and that should be submitted for the grant**. The location at Lindsay St. and Yanceyville St. is technically outside the historic district and it may not make sense to place a sign in front of the War Memorial if any renovation of War Memorial or the Farmer’s Market is planned. Bessemer and Cypress does not have as much traffic volume, but is a viable alternate location for a sign.

- c. **Street Repaving** – Ms. Baun conferred with GDOT who provided her a map of street surface scores. The **decision to repave a section of a road is based**

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on a score of less than 60 and vehicular volume. The street repaving allocation is already set for 2012, so the **first opportunity for Aycock neighborhood repaving is 2013.** However, any sinkholes in pavement can be patched immediately.

Action Item for all board members – submit locations of any sinkholes in pavement to Betsey Baun who will forward to GDOT.

- d. **Arts Council of Greensboro** – Ms. Baun has been serving as representative from Aycock to the Arts Council of Greensboro for several years and would like another board member to attend the monthly meetings on Tuesday noon to 1 pm at Sternberger House. **Sara Farnsworth agreed to represent.**
- 6.) **Community Watch:** Sara Farnsworth volunteered to send an email on the listserv asking if anyone has information regarding the theft from 600 Summit Ave. per request of Officer Doug Campbell. The police consider theft of appliances, books, and linens to be unusual. Ms. Farnsworth also will post a reminder of holiday safety tips on the listserv.
- 7.) **COAs:** None this month.
- 8.) **Technology:** Shawn Wriede reported that the **Aycock web domain expires in February.** He will research the issue and provide details to the board.
- 9.) **Strategic Plan:** Stefan-leih Geary of the Housing and Community Development Department of the City of Greensboro presented some background on the evolution of **Aycock’s Strategic Plan which was submitted and approved by City Council in 2003.** She remarked that plans like this are usually broad plans that span 15-25 years and emphasized that the plan is not updated, but rather, initiatives that support the plan are created and executed during the plan’s lifetime. Ms. Geary provided as an example, the Summit Ave Corridor Project, submitted in 2008, which details streetscape improvements to Summit Ave. Ms. Geary’s budget shows that the project is scheduled to start in spring of 2016 to be completed by spring of 2018 at a cost of \$7.5 million. This is slightly later than originally communicated to the board last year. The Downtown Greenway, which was not in existence at the time the Strategic Plan was created, needs to coexist with the Summit Ave streetscape improvements. The Strategic Plan has been placed back on the Aycock website, since it is an official document that represents Aycock’s goals within the next 10 years.
- 10.) **Welcoming Committee:** Cathy Scott provided a welcome basket to **Michelle Harrington of 700 Chestnut St.** 624 Park Ave was sold at auction, but the house needs considerable work before becoming habitable.

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11.) Old Business: Action Items from last meeting

- a. Action Item for Shawn Wriede – post corrected and approved minutes on Historic Aycock District website.

Complete.

- b. Action Item for Bert VanderVeen – determine why the doggie pot stations are not refilled.

Pending

- c. Action Item for David Wharton – request permanent trashcan at Leftwich Tunnel.

Pending – David Wharton not present

- d. Action Item for Cathy Scott – request change of GTA bus top on Yanceyville

Complete – Cathy Scott not present but she sent an email to the board stating that Bruce Adams of GTA submitted a work order to move the bus stop.

12.) Old Business: Breedlove planting project. Linda Fusco presented design plans developed by Marguerite Suggs and Stefan-leih Geary had a large copy with her for the board to inspect. The plan is careful not to interfere with any possible street revisions required by the Downtown Greenway. Clint Spivey, owner of Breedlove Radiator, approved the design. There was discussion on sign options. Mr. Spivey was told that, although the large sign on top of the building may remain, any new signage would force that existing sign to be removed. Ms. Geary did not think that was accurate and offered to validate. The cost of the installation is estimated at \$15,800. The board **voted and approved unanimously to use MSD funds to pay for the planting** up to the amount estimated. The next step is for the board to initiate a bid process: the 3 vendors are expected to be Dunlap Lawn Services, Atlantic Landscaping, and New Garden Nursery. In addition, the board **voted and approved unanimously to add \$100 per month to Dunlap Lawn Service's existing maintenance contract** to include the newly landscaped area around Breedlove with an additional \$900 mulching fee to be performed annually or semi-annually.

Action Item for Christina Cantrell – send authorization to Stefan-leih Geary to use MSD funds to pay for Breedlove landscape installation and maintenance.

13.) New Business:

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- a. **Southern Evergreen** was initially interested in purchasing the foreclosed property at 600 Summit Ave from the bank and made a presentation for renovation to the board. However, they have withdrawn consideration.
- b. **Park Ave stone walls** – the city indicated in April that it is responsible for the repairs of the deteriorating wall along Park Ave, but a recent email from Mike Cowhig does not support that. Bert VanderVeen volunteered to investigate.

Action Item for Bert VanderVeen – identify the responsible party for repairing stone wall on Park Ave.

- c. **Demolition order** will be filed on 517 Park Ave on Dec 13 by the Minimum Standards Commission.
- d. **Demolition order** on 311 Leftwich St will expire in May 2012 at which time the structure will be demolished. This building has been unoccupied for several years.

14.) Meeting Adjourned: 8:53 pm.