

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
December 3, 2012

Present: Linda Fusco, Sara Farnsworth, Mindy Zachary, Shawn Wriede, Christina Cantrell, Khalil Perilstein, Betsey Baun, Jon Mitchell (alternate), Joe Kilpatrick (alternate)

Absent: David Wharton, Jamie Barnett, Bert VanderVeen

Guests: Officer Douglas E. Campbell and Officer L.G. Roberts of GPD, Principal Keisha McMillan and Assistant Principal Ashley Triplett of Aycock Middle School, John Mandrano, Jim Rounds

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Monday, December 3, 2012 at St. Leo's Place Community Room. Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by President Linda Fusco. Secretary Sara Farnsworth was in attendance to take the minutes.

- 1. Community Resource Officer Report:** Officer Doug Campbell introduced Officer L.G. Roberts, who works in our neighborhood primarily at night. He also has knowledge and experience that may prove helpful to the board through his experience working for the office of Local Ordinance Enforcement before joining GPD.

Officer Campbell let the board know that he has put out an alert to patrol officers to increase patrols of Sternberger Park. He had no news to report on Flashcam installation but has let Parks & Recreation know that the Sternberger Park location should be prioritized and has shared with them the idea of a possible alternative of just motion-sensitive flashing lights that could be seen and reported by neighbors. Officer Campbell also followed up with GDOT official Noland Tipton about possible paint-stenciled No Loitering signs after metal signs were stolen from the Leftwich-Summit pedestrian tunnel.

The following **police incidents were reported between October 29 and December 3, 2012:** Nov. 4 – Window broken out of auto at 687 Percy St. Nov. 3 – Property reported missing after party at 705 Chestnut St. Nov. 20 – Hit and run, car parked on street at 421 E. Hendrix damaged. Nov. 3 – Forcible entry at vacant apartment at 607 Summit. Screen cut without success; window locked. Back door window broken out. Two heaters taken. Nov. 9 – Wheel caps taken from Cadillac at Bill Black dealership. Nov. 20 – Body found at 807 Sullivan St. Nothing of concern found but considered under investigation. At Aycock Middle School, 811 Cypress, incidents on Nov. 8 (pencil stabbing) and Nov. 27 (missing phone). Nov. 6 – Card left in ATM at 720 Summit; several withdrawals made. Nov. 30 – MP3 player stolen from car left unlocked overnight at 606 Summit. Dec. 2 – Burglary at Earnest Realty at 608 Summit. No sign of forcible entry on exterior. Two suites forced open in interior, and electronics were taken.

Officer Roberts mentioned that there is a tent city forming outside the Leftwich tunnel, possibly on city property. Officer Campbell will follow up. Officer Roberts also asked for

clarification of the type of activity going on in Sternberger Park, and board members advised.

Betsey Baun brought up a theft she'd heard about from neighborhood resident (on the block of 5th Ave. outside the historic district) who perhaps felt disconnected and declined to report the crime. Board members discussed need to reach out to residents like these in efforts to better connect them with their community.

2. Special Speakers: Keisha McMillan and Ashley Triplett of Aycock Middle School.

Keisha McMillan is the new principal of Aycock Middle School this year, and Ashley Triplett is a new assistant principal. Ms. McMillan spoke about her approach at Aycock Middle, emphasizing cultural leadership in the very diverse school. She described the school as a “complex, dynamic environment” which is actually three schools in one: the Spanish Immersion magnet program, the Science/Technology magnet program, and the neighborhood school. Her major goal is to work on closing achievement gaps among underperforming groups such as Limited English Proficiency and African-American students. Ms. McMillan described the campus as very open and always busy with activities, including those of outside groups who rent space from the school. The old school buildings have recently been updated with new lighting and a new gym floor, with further improvements planned.

Board members encouraged Ms. McMillan to let neighbors know about the needs of the school and how community members might get involved and contribute. It was recommended that she join the neighborhood listserv in order to give us her “wish list” and rally neighborhood resources that might help the school.

Christina Cantrell asked Ms. McMillan about the possibility of collaborating with the school's art department on painting a mural for the Leftwich tunnel. The school has only a part-time art teacher and they would not be able to take that project on at this point. The Guilford Nonprofit Consortium was mentioned as a possible alternative source of volunteers to create a mural.

Sara Farnsworth asked about the increase in police reports for incidents at the school this year and whether that may indicate a change in the approach to discipline at the school. Ms. McMillan affirmed that was the case, that all reportable offenses were indeed reported to the School Resource Officer, and that offending students might suffer both school-based consequences and separate legal consequences. She described her good working relationship with the police and her success in using this disciplinary approach in her position at another school.

- 3. Secretary's Report: Minutes from the October 29, 2012 board meeting** were reviewed and one edit was requested, clarifying the Pecan Festival Wrap-up section. Minutes as amended were unanimously approved. **ACTION ITEM** for Sara Farnsworth and Shawn Wriede: **Edit October Minutes document as approved by board and send to Shawn, who will post to website.**

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Christina Cantrell distributed the Treasury Report, which shows a balance of \$6,799.46 with \$3,588.31 in the General Fund and the rest in escrow accounts. Donations of \$40.60 were received via PayPal fund drive. The Chili Fest earned a total profit of \$154.83. After all associated donations and costs were totaled, the Pecan Festival represented a total loss of \$98.00 (revised/updated from statement presented at previous board meeting). Board members agreed that the expenditure on the Pecan Festival was worthwhile.

ACTION ITEM for Christina Cantrell (continued from last month): Research banking alternatives.

5. **Community Development:** Betsey Baun reported that plans for the neighborhood sign (funded by a Neighborhood Small Project Program grant) are in place and the project is waiting for the go-ahead from city official Russ Clegg, who said he'd be out to look at it next week. Mindy reported that city officials suggested using MSD funds for landscaping around the sign. Board members expressed their desire to wait until the sign was put in place before considering landscaping around it.
6. **Community Watch:** Khalil Perilstein informed the board that he was stepping down from his position as Community Watch chair. Board members discussed whether there is a need for a formal Community Watch committee/position and if so, what the role should involve. The position was left open for now.
7. **Historic Preservation (COA):** Linda Fusco reported that there is one COA this month.
 - a) **COA Application #1600, 754 Chestnut Street.** Property owner John Mandrano was in attendance to present his amended application file, superseding applications #1562 and #1595. Home had an expanded external stair landing installed for second floor apartment to allow for greater turning radius when moving large furniture and for safety reasons. After-the-fact COA application filed in October 2012 was continued, because newly-built stair landing had building setback violation (built too close to the property line) that needed to be corrected in order for the COA application to be addressed. Amended COA application showed plans for a smaller landing that would adhere to building setback regulations. **The board voted unanimously to support the COA, with current Historic Preservation Commission members abstaining or absent.**
8. **Newsletter:** Linda Fusco reported that an attempt was made via email to collect a long-overdue payment for a newsletter ad. **ACTION ITEM for Linda Fusco: Make contact via phone to collect outstanding payment for newsletter ad.**
9. **Technology:** Shawn Wriede reported that an information/payment page has been put up on the website for the upcoming Luminaria sale.
10. **Welcoming Committee:** No actions to report. **ACTION ITEM for Mindy Zachary: Email Linda Fusco with information about new residents at 515 Park Ave.**

11. Alleyway Issues: Mindy Zachary has enlisted Joe Kilpatrick to help with the alleyway issues project, and he has gotten up to speed on the history. They are formulating a plan for this complex, multifaceted problem.

12. Special Projects:

- a) **War Memorial Stadium:** Mindy Zachary has been participating in a committee and working with city officials, including Nasha McCray, the Parks & Recreation Planning and Project Development Manager. Now that a study of the structure has been undertaken, **demolition is no longer in the city's plans**. The consensus is that it **can be renovated**. The city will be pursuing grants to do an assessment and develop a step-by-step program for properly renovating the stadium. Economic development opportunities with NCA&T are being pursued, as are the ideas of creating a plaza in front of the stadium and including the Farmer's Market in plans. A&T's Master Plan 2020 shows the stadium included in an international village including retail, and being used for baseball, Aggiefest, and more. **The board voted unanimously to "reiterate its full support for historic renovation of the War Memorial Stadium."**

- b) **Greensboro Neighborhood Congress – East Greensboro:** Sara Farnsworth reported on the November Greensboro Neighborhood Congress meeting, at which city official Russ Clegg made a presentation on the topic of a Strategic Plan for Economic Development in East Greensboro. Aycock neighborhood is considered part of east Greensboro, and the city has prioritized economic and retail development in this part of the city as part of its Strategic Plan. The study recommended focusing on encouraging retail development in four "gateway areas," two of which are in or near our neighborhood: the "Summit Gateway" (the area around the Summit/Bessemer intersection) and the "University Gateway" (around the Murrow/Market intersection). The plan's Summit Gateway recommendations in particular mesh well with our neighborhood's priority of enacting the Summit Avenue Corridor Improvement project, for which we are waiting for bonds to be issued. The board may consider inviting Russ Clegg as a speaker on this topic for a future board meeting.

13. Old Business

A. Pending Action Items from last meeting

- i. **Granite Curb survey project:** Khalil Perilstein has completed the survey and sent findings to Linda Fusco. **ACTION ITEM for Mindy Zachary: Report granite curb repair/replacement requests to the city.**

- ii. **Letter to Mr. Daskalakis about homeless encampment on Dunleith property:** Christina Cantrell emailed a draft letter to board members, but some board members may not have received it and/or didn't respond. **ACTION ITEM for Christina Cantrell: Re-send the draft letter about the homeless encampment to board members for approval.**

- iii. Pending **ACTION ITEM** for Mindy Zachary: Send email to Linda giving name and contact information for potential speaker about the Performing Arts Center at an upcoming board meeting.
- iv. Pending **ACTION ITEM** for Mindy Zachary: Contact city about street cleaning schedule and if possible post scheduled street cleanings to Listserv.

B. Little Free Library Installation Wrap-up: Linda Fusco reported that the Little Free Library is now in place in Sternberger Park, thanks to the installation efforts of Bob Coltun and Walt Bilous.

C. Chili Fundraiser Wrap-up: Christina Cantrell reported that the chili fundraiser on the Greensboro Beautiful wreath pick-up day located at the Farmers' Curb Market cleared \$154.83 after expenses, with chili and cornbread donated by neighbors and donuts and coffee donated Krispy Kreme. The board expressed their great appreciation to those who donated food and most especially to Christina and Bob Cantrell for the extremely long shifts they spent staffing the fundraiser. Christina reported that the event seemed to have less traffic than in the past and that the requirement that vendors be there all day long (starting early in the morning) meant that it would probably not be worthwhile to repeat this fundraiser in the future.

D. Luminarias Update: Luminarias are being ordered for the date of Sunday, Dec. 9, with rain date of Sunday, December 16. Jon Mitchell reported that he was trying to find sponsors to light up Sternberger Park with luminaries, and that he would work with the luminaria organizer in Fisher Park to make the call about potential weather delays.

14. New Business:

A. Baseball Field Backstop – Linda Fusco reported that neighbor Tom Franklin made a verbal request for the board's support/involvement in installing a backstop for the baseball field at Aycock Middle School. His son Cristian Franklin has recently completed his Eagle Scout project to build dugout shelters for the field. His request was preliminary and can be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:27 pm