

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
February 27, 2012

Present: Christina Cantrell, Linda Fusco, Khalil Perilstein, Cathy Scott, David Wharton, Shawn Wriede

Absent: Betsey Baun, Fabio Camara, Sara Farnsworth, Lillian Govus, Bert VanderVeen

Guests: Officer Douglas E. Campbell, Residents Jane Brown, Tom Franklin, Cristian Franklin, Pam Grigsby, Steven Smith, Patti Bauer

Meeting Called to Order: 6:40 pm

This month's HISTORIC MOMENT: *"The Committee heard in every city that the improvements in downtown and neighborhood appearance from historic preservation had been critical to industrial and new business recruiting efforts."* From the Report of the Joint Study Committee on Economic Development Through Historic Preservation.

1.) Community Watch Report: Officer Doug Campbell reported the following police incidents between Jan 23 and Feb 27, 2012: Jan 23 - burglary at 425 Brandon - no items reported missing; the back door was kicked in. Jan 23 - burglary at 518 Summit Ave - no items reported missing; a witness saw a person knocking at the window, but did not consider it suspicious and did not call the police. Feb 6 - a motorist hit a utility pole near Percy St and Park Ave and fled; a witness called and gave a description to police. Police arrested Rodney Noble, who was charged with DWI and hit-and-run. Feb 14 - a white, metal, enclosed trailer was stolen from 515 Charter Pl; there are no suspects at this time. Feb 25 - an LG 42" flat screen TV was found close to 515 Fifth Ave. No one reported a missing television. Officer Campbell stated this is a technique used by thieves who hide stolen property until a later time when it is retrieved. During discussion after the report, it was suggested that an email reminding residents of safety precautions should be sent. Officer Campbell offered to send safety tips to Sara Farnsworth to assist with the email.

Action Item for Sara Farnsworth - send reminder email to Aycock listserv regarding safety tips to prevent crime.

2.) President's Report: Bert VanderVeen was not present because he was attending the Board of Adjustments meeting during which a **variance from the development standard that requires primary access from a thoroughfare or collector street for a cemetery** was requested by Minas Dascalakis. A number of residents attended the board meeting to continue the discussion on the cemetery proposal. The general consensus is that the preferred use for the property is a city park or a community garden (as it is now used), but a cemetery is a much better option than

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apartments. However, since the neighborhood does not own the plot of land, it does not have decision-making authority over its use.

Action Item for Bert VanderVeen – send report on results of Board of Adjustments meeting.

3.) Secretary-Treasurer report: Minutes from the January 2012 board meeting were distributed, reviewed, and approved. **Treasurer’s report** for January was distributed. The profit and loss statement for the **luminaria fund-raiser** in December shows that an excellent profit was realized on the event. The event continues to be a reliable fund-raiser for the neighborhood.

Cost Details:	1000 votives/bags from Illuminations, Inc	(\$376.75)
	3 yards of sand	(\$217.02)
Total costs:		(\$593.77)
Revenue Details:	PayPal pre-paid sales	\$191.40
	Cash sales day of event	\$540.00
	Invoiced sales	\$500.00
Total revenue:		\$1,231.40
Total profit:		\$637.63

4.) Community Development: Betsey Baun was not present, but expressed an interest via email to study options to **counteract the massive pruning** of trees (including the Fisher Park historic district) initiated by Duke Energy to clear their power lines. The discussion will commence next meeting.

5.) Community Watch: Sara Farnsworth was not present but will be asked to send a ‘safety tips’ email to the neighborhood.

6.) COA: Linda Fusco reported there is one COA this month

- a. **811 Cypress St.** (Aycock Middle School). Cristian Franklin of Percy St presented a proposal, as part of an Eagle Scout project, to refurbish the baseball fields with new dugouts, new landscaping, and repairs to bleachers and backstop. The board voted unanimously to support the COA with two current HPC commissioners abstaining.

7.) Newsletter: Linda Fusco stated there is no news to report.

8.) Technology: Shawn Wriede stated there is no news to report.

9.) Welcoming Committee: Cathy Scott stated there is no news to report.

10.) Old Business:

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- a. Bert VanderVeen – draft letter of support to Dascalakis for cemetery proposal at Dunleith site. – **Completed.**
- b. Bert VanderVeen – request names of renters in Wall house – **Pending.** Cathy Scott volunteered to obtain this information.
- c. Christina Cantrell – refill doggie pot stations with newly purchased bags – **Complete.**
- d. Action Item for David Wharton – request permanent trashcan at Leftwich Tunnel – **Pending.** Mr. Wharton continues to email Leo Cheek but has not received a response.
- e. Action Item for Sara Farnsworth – request more information on 600 Summit Ave theft – **Discard.** Leads are stale by now.
- f. **Breedlove planting project:** The vendor, Great Atlantic Landscaping, **amended his bid** to include items not previously included. The bid is still the lowest and the **board voted unanimously to accept the new bid.** The **city requires a contract** on file, even though the planting agreement is between the Aycock Neighborhood Association and the vendor. Linda Fusco presented a draft from the vendor to the board. Ms. Fusco and Christina Cantrell plan to review the multi-page document, make any revisions, sign the document, and forward to the city. The planting work is scheduled to begin on or around March 6 and complete by the end of the month.

Action Item for Linda Fusco and Christina Cantrell – review contract from Great Atlantic Landscaping, sign, and file with the city.

- g. **Park Ave stone wall repair:** Linda Fusco was able to establish that the “responsible party” for **repair of the stone wall is each individual homeowner.** Although the wall lies partly in the right-of-way, right-of-way does not equate ownership. That is why the city is not responsible. However, Ms. Fusco, in collaboration with city staff, determined that **MSD funds can be used to repair the wall.** The board voted unanimously that repairing the stone wall is a good use of MSD funds because it is a defining characteristic of the street. Ms. Fusco presented a bid from Piedmont Stone, a company that received an award from Preservation Greensboro, Inc. (PGI) for work done on Elm St. last year. His bid is \$10,628.50. The city requires two more bids. The last bids were submitted in March 2010 and are no longer valid, so Ms. Fusco volunteered to seek more bids. The board will vote to select a vendor next meeting.

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Action Item for Linda Fusco - procure two more bids for the repair of deteriorating stone wall on Park Ave.

Action Item for Linda Fusco - draft letter to property owners on Park Ave asking for approval to commence repair work on the deteriorating stone wall.

- h. Strategic Plan:** Lillian Govus was not present, so there is no report.
- i. City Council meeting:** David Wharton stated that he **invited the mayor and several City Council members to the board meeting** for an open discussion; Robbie Perkins replied that he may arrive after 7 pm, although he did not; Mr. Wharton did not receive a reply from anyone else. This was a disappointment to all board members.

11.) New Business:

- a. Downtown Greensboro Neighborhood Association:** A new neighborhood association for downtown residents is being organized. There is some question about the **boundaries of the new district** since it appears to overlap Fisher Park's boundaries. There is no official map of all neighborhoods in Greensboro, so the border is somewhat amorphous. The general consensus is that Aycock appears to have a natural boundary in Murrow Blvd and besides, the neighborhood would welcome anyone claiming the stretch of Summit Ave from Murrow Blvd to East Lindsay St. There was discussion about the possible tension between a predominantly commercial district and residents who choose to live there. It was felt that the downtown area should not mimic residential areas, since the special nature of the business district contributes to the vitality of Greensboro.
- b. Greensboro Neighborhood Congress delegates:** Due to the number of residents in Aycock, the district is allocated two representatives (and two votes) for the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress. Currently, there is only one representative (Christina Cantrell) and two alternates (Bert VanderVeen and David Wharton). Linda Fusco volunteered to be the second representative from Aycock to the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC.)

12.) Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 pm.