

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
For October 27, 2008

Present: Christina Cantrell, Charlie Conner, Maliq Culbreath, Linda Fusco, Jennifer Lanza, Justin Smith, Bert VanderVeen, Laura Wall, Shawn Wriede

Absent: Shawn Patch, Julie Welch

Guests: Officer Jim Cayton, Officer Bud Blaylock, Jerry Leimenstoll (PCDF), John Linn (PCDF), Bob Powell (PCDF)

Business meeting called to order at 6:33 PM

Agenda Items:

1.) **Community Watch report** – Officer Cayton stated that a person is in police custody who initially was arrested after a **felony car break-in** at 702 Chestnut St. The suspect's last name is Daye. He was re-arrested after breaking into a store on Battleground Ave this past weekend. Officer Cayton reminded board members to pass the word never to leave items in a car that might tempt a thief.

Officer Cayton also mentioned that police are on the lookout for a **light-colored 1980's model Chevy pickup truck with ladder racks** that was reported in the driveway of a residence where a car break-in occurred. Although the incident did not occur in the Aycock district, Officer Cayton wanted everyone to be aware and report to police if such a vehicle is seen in the neighborhood.

Officer Cayton has no update regarding the **fire and homicide at 519 Summit Ave** which occurred in September, but stated it is an active investigation. Jennifer Lanza reported that she heard a rumor that residents across the street from the apartment may have some pertinent information, but evidently no one from the police department questioned them. Officer Blaylock checked with the investigator during the course of the board meeting and found that police have spoken with the neighbor Ms. Lanza indicated. Officer Blaylock reminded the board that anonymous tips can be called into the police department at any time using the Guilford County Crime Stoppers line – 336-373-1000. Rewards are offered if an arrest is made based on a tip.

Officer Blaylock asked the city to add **fencing near the Leftwich tunnel** as requested by the board in a previous meeting, but no action by the city is planned. He suggested that the board continue to request GDOT (Greensboro Department of Transportation) and mentioned Kym Smith as a good contact. On a positive note, the tunnel lights are operational and tunnel remains graffiti-free.

2.) **Dunleath pre-charrette session** – Jerry Leimenstoll, John Linn, and Bob Powell of PCDF (Piedmont Community Design Forum) attended the board meeting to introduce the process of the pre-charrette. They suggested 3 pre-charrette sessions to obtain the viewpoint and desires of Aycock neighbors. There are 4 stakeholders that will present their views on the first day of the charrette (Nov 18):

- Aycock neighborhood,
- Property owner (Dmitri Dascalakis),
- City of Greensboro,

- Potential developers.

These views will be used by the design team (DPZ – Duany Plater-Zyberk of Charlotte, NC, headed by Tom Low) to create one or more options for the property. Days 2 through 4 will be used to work through multiple iterations until the best option(s) is developed. Open house/drop-in and formal feedback sessions are scheduled during days 2-4. PCDF's role is to facilitate the conversation among all the stakeholders. The issues that Bob Powell presented to start the conversation are:

- What is the site's relationship to its neighbors?
- What is the history of the property?
- Who are the people and groups affected?
- What lessons have we learned from prior charrettes?
- How does the neighborhood see the future of the site?

Subsequent pre-charrette sessions are scheduled (tentatively in St Leo's Community Room) on

Thursday, Nov 6 - 6:45 pm to 8:00 pm (for all Aycock residents to present viewpoints)

Wednesday, Nov 12 - 6:45 pm to 8:00 pm (dress rehearsal for the Nov 18 presentation)

Bert VanderVeen's action item is to reserve the community room for these dates.

Laura Wall's action item is to provide history of the site to Jerry Leimenstoll.

The NeighborWoods event on Saturday, Nov 8 is an opportunity to present the initial viewpoints and elicit opinions from neighbors.

The listserv, flyers, and Aycock website all will be used to promote the event. It is estimated that 25 people from the neighborhood will attend the charrette. This number is based on prior charrettes. Board members Charlie Connor, Maliq Culbreath, and Laura Wall asked to be included in subsequent planning sessions that the city is holding (led by Mike Cowhig). The **next planning meeting is Monday, Nov 3 at 4:00 pm** in the Planning Conference Room on the third floor of the Melvin Municipal Building. Shawn Wriede asked for the email addresses of the people handling the city's website (Mary Sertell and Stefan-Leih Geary) to provide **seamless connection between the Aycock and city websites** for the duration of the charrette. Bert VanderVeen championed the idea of a scavenger hunt to promote interest in the charrette.

3.) **Minutes from September 22 meeting** were presented, reviewed, and accepted.

4.) **Treasurer's report** – Justin Smith reported the current balance in Aycock's account is \$11,393.13.

Mr. Smith reported that he signed up for online banking since the Aycock account bank statements do not appear to be mailed to either current or prior treasurers and he could not accurately determine transactions on the account. It has been the custom to update the mailing address to the existing treasurer's home address. A motion was made and passed unanimously to **set up a Post Office Box that receives official Aycock mail, including bank statements**, and also to allocate the funds to pay for the box. **Justin Smith's action item** is to set up the PO Box.

A question was raised on the **number of signatures required to sign a check**. Currently, only one signature is authorized (Justin Smith) and there is no backup. Discussion was held on the

benefit of dual signatures if the amount exceeds a pre-set limit. The amount of \$2000.00 was suggested as a possible cap, but not everyone was comfortable with this amount. Linda Fusco asked if the bylaws contained any restrictions. A vote was tabled until a copy of the bylaws is located and conversation with the bank about its restrictions is held. **Laura Wall's action item** is to locate a copy of the by-laws. **Justin Smith's action item** is to have a conversation with the bank about best practices and options.

5.) **Vice-President's report** – Laura Wall suggested that the planned **median planting**, which was delayed last year due to drought, coincide with the NeighborWoods tree planting event on Saturday, Nov 8. Ms. Wall provided a site plan of the planting design. The plants are paid almost entirely via a \$1,000.00 grant; but a balance of approx \$80.00 plus pine straw is required to be paid by Aycock. Ms. Wall asked New Garden Nursery for an estimate on prepping the medians prior to planting day. The cost for prepping is \$2347.00. There was some discussion whether these costs should be paid from the Aycock account or from MSD funds. However, since there may be some costs incurred by the charrette (which cannot be paid from MSD funds) and this is an item for which MSD funds are intended, a motion was made to pay the amount from MSD funds. A majority voted in favor; there was one abstention.

Charlie Connor asked about **safety precautions for the volunteers** planting in the Yanceyville median since it is a heavily traveled thoroughfare. **Laura Wall's action plan** is to contact GDOT for possible temporary closure and reroute of Yanceyville St during the NeighborWoods planning event.

The **NeighborWoods planting event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov 8, rain or shine**, with volunteers gathering at 8:30 am in the upper ball field (corner of Cypress St. and Yanceyville St). T-shirts and food (from Panera Bread) will be available near the registration desk. The holes for the trees are scheduled to be dug by the city on Saturday, Nov 1. Laura Wall reminded everyone to be careful since the holes in residents' yards will be large.

Laura Wall suggested a **celebratory event after NeighborWoods** since many people worked for two years on the project. A motion was made and voted unanimously for the Aycock Board to host a dinner at Riva's at a date and time to be determined later, with a guest list provided by Ms. Wall.

6.) **Newsletter Editor** Linda Fusco, thanked everyone for helping to create the newsletter which was delivered to residents around Oct 15. She reported that the cost of the newsletter was paid entirely by advertisements in the newsletter. The next newsletter is scheduled to be published in January 2009.

7.) **President's report** – Bert VanderVeen asked for a motion to pursue the idea of **flags to make children more visible crossing Yanceyville St**. The idea is to have flags and buckets (on either side of Yanceyville St) with signs indicating the purpose. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. VanderVeen **asked board members to participate in urging Greensboro residents to pass the Transportation Bond** on the November 4 ballot (early voting starts Oct 16). Volunteers are needed to pass out information on Election Day.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.