

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Sept 27, 2010

Present: Fabio Camara, Christina Cantrell, Linda Fusco, Brian Heagney, David Hoggard, Laura Wall, Shawn Wriede

Absent: Jon Mitchell, Bert VanderVeen

Guests: Max Andrews, Guilford County Schools, Betsey Baun, resident; Officer Doug Campbell, Greensboro Police Department; Robert Coltun, resident; Darian Creed, Hugh Creed Associates; Anne Finn, resident; Lillian Govus, resident; Pam Grigsby, resident; Angela Polk Jones, Aycock Middle School Assistant Principal; Andrew LaRowe, Guilford County Schools; David North, resident; Paula Patch, resident.

Meeting Called to Order: 6:32 pm

1.) Community Watch Report:

- a. Officer Doug Campbell presented the **police report for the past month**. Four 'larceny from vehicle' incidents were reported: 3 of the vehicles were unlocked, so entry was unforced. The fourth vehicle had a purse in visible sight and a window was smashed with an object, probably a rock.
- b. Officer Campbell also reported that the man who was **selling drugs** at the corner of Yanceyville St. and East Hendrix St. voluntarily committed on Sept 21. He was living with an aunt on East Hendrix St.
- c. Cory Johnson is researching the **traffic conditions surrounding Aycock Middle School** for options to calm traffic during the morning and afternoon drop-off/pick-up times. Angela Polk Jones from Aycock Middle School reported that the school now has a Greensboro police officer directing traffic both in the morning and afternoon.

2.) COA: Mobile classrooms (trailers) at Aycock Middle School: Andrew LaRowe, Chief Operations Officer at Guilford County Schools, presented a case for mobile classrooms at Aycock Middle School. Last year, there was anticipation of 88 more 6th graders in the magnet program at Aycock. The building is designed to hold 700 students, but the program capacity is somewhat less. Aycock has, in addition to traditional middle school students, two magnet programs (Spanish and Math/Science). The anticipated number of students in the 2010-2011 school year was 637; the actual number is 648. Therefore, there is **no need for mobile classrooms this year**. However, Mr. LaRowe is aware that planning needs to start for next year and he is interested in working with Aycock's historic overlay and neighborhood association to explore options. Mr. LaRowe agreed to **postpone the COA** request from HPC's agenda on Sept 29, 2010 since additional options were presented to him in a separate meeting with Betsey Baun, Laura Wall, et al.

In the Q&A portion, the audience learned that 540 mobile classrooms are currently in use in Guilford County. There is no time limit on using the mobile classrooms, so they are not temporary structures by definition. One of the magnet programs (Math/Science) has flexible number of available spaces and could be reduced to ease crowding. A decision on whether additional space is required must be made by Feb-Mar 2011 in order to install mobile classrooms for the 2011-2012 school year. Mobile classrooms that are based on the "Katrina

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Cottage” design are promoted by Duany Plater-Zuberk (DPZ) of Charlotte; information is available at www.learningcottages.com. Bill Black’s vacant building on East Bessemer Ave may be available to retrofit into classrooms. Finally, Brian Heagney offered to help with visualizations of possible options to help people select the best alternative.

- 3.) **Secretary’s Report:** The **minutes from August** meeting were approved. Christina Cantrell stated that she would be out of town for the October meeting and requested that Linda Fusco take minutes in her stead. Ms. Fusco graciously agreed.
- 4.) **Treasurer’s Report:** David Hoggard reported **no change in bank balance**.
- 5.) **Pecan Festival/Goodwill Partnership:** Linda Fusco reported that plans for the **Pecan Festival, scheduled for Saturday, Oct 23, 2010** from 4-8 pm, are underway. The festival’s purpose is to promote “Save, Recycle, Reuse” for the neighborhood by partnering with Goodwill Industries in a pilot program which supplies totes to neighborhoods for donations to Goodwill. All the festival decorations are biodegradable (bales of hay, pumpkins, and chrysanthemums). David Hoggard is making BBQ for purchase. Music and children’s activities will be available. Fifth Ave will be closed to traffic for the duration of the event. Invitations have been sent to Urban Harvest, Boy Scouts, and Architectural Salvage of Greensboro to set up booths to promote healthy living and reuse of materials.
- 6.) **Proposed Aycock By-laws changes:** Linda Fusco distributed the revised by-law changes. No vote was taken at the last meeting because some residents indicated that more time was needed to review the revisions and there was some concern that the Title 1 section in Article II was dropped. Ms. Fusco sent the revisions to the listserv on Aug 25, 2010. After discussion by the board, a motion was made and seconded to retain the drop of the Title 1 sentence:

To assist residents in obtaining maximum benefit from Title 1 area redevelopment plans and in making necessary transitions, such as relocation.

as no one on the board has the expertise to provide this type of support. There was concern that the board could be in legal jeopardy by providing unsound advice. The motion was approved unanimously. After this final revision, a motion was made and seconded to accept the **by-laws as revised, which was approved unanimously**. The new by-laws will be posted on the Aycock website.

- 7.) **Grant Applications:** Linda Fusco reported that deadlines for grants are approaching. The **Building Stronger Neighborhoods grant’s deadline is Sept 30, 2010**. Bert VanderVeen and Jon Mitchell had an idea for the BSN grant regarding a community survey, but neither was present to provide details. The **Neighborhoods Small Projects Program grant’s deadline is Nov 30, 2010**, but Laura Wall pointed out that Aycock already has 3 submissions for grants for this program (2 for signage and 1 for improvements to Sternberger Park). Since this program awards one grant per district, Ms. Wall felt it would be counter-

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productive to add yet another submission. Ms. Wall will email her contact at the city to determine the status of Aycock's current grant applications.

- 8.) **Newsletter:** Linda Fusco reported that the newsletter is going to the printer on Sept 28 and will be ready for **delivery on Friday, Oct 1, 2010**. Since Charlie Connor and Justin Smith are no longer on the board, Ms. Fusco will designate new delivery routes and send them via email.
- 9.) **Alleyway Issues Committee:** Shawn Wriede reported that **five testimonials** were presented to Nelsie Smith, Assistant City Manager on Sept 8, 2010. The issue at 704 Summit Ave is now resolved. The others are still pending. Linda Fusco and Shawn Wriede are sending weekly emails for status updates.
- 10.) **Welcome Committee:** Linda Fusco reported that the Sales Factory volunteered to design and print 500 brochures and letterheads for a **welcome packet for new Aycock residents**. Ms. Fusco is seeking volunteers for a committee to determine what materials would be helpful for new residents in a historic district.
- 11.) **Properties in Distress:** As a follow-up from last month's meeting, Charlie Connor filled out **"Petition Request for Housing Inspection" forms** to the city requesting inspection on two distressed properties: **513 Park Ave and 806 Fifth Ave**. Five signatures were obtained from board members. Linda Fusco is planning to send the signed requests to the city.

In addition, there was a request from Anne Finn to request to **inspect the property at 416B East Hendrix St.** due to an advanced mold on the structure. Laura Wall will contact Butch Simmons, city inspector.

- 12.) **N.C. A&T Focus Groups:** Bert VanderVeen requested **volunteers for neighborhood focus groups to meet with representatives from N.C. A&T University** on Oct 7, 2010. Betsey Baun and Lillian Govus stated they had volunteered and that Mr. VanderVeen was able to gather sufficient volunteers from Aycock. N.C. A&T is scheduling focus groups to assess community perceptions of the university.
- 13.) **President's Report:** Three agenda items were postponed to next meeting because Bert VanderVeen was not present: Email campaign for RUCO, Request to reopen White St landfill, and Bulk trash pickup schedule.
- 14.) **New Business:**

- a. Some listserv emails during the weekend made it clear to board members that the board is not communicating the efforts made on behalf of the neighborhood effectively. There had been discussion in the past to post the meeting minutes on the Aycock website, but it was rejected because residents are invited to attend board meetings. However, it is clear that residents do not attend board meetings with any regularity, so another solution to communicate board business is required. After

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- discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to **post all available approved meeting minutes on the Aycock website**. Minutes from the April 2008 meeting, and all meetings since then, are available. Shawn Wriede is planning to post them in PDF format as soon as Christina Cantrell sends the documents to him.
- b. A reminder to the board that Ann Stringfield, of Fisher Park, applied for a **BSN grant for board members of all three local historic districts to attend a one day forum** early next year to educate current and new board members about historic districts, boundaries, guidelines, resources, the Historic Preservation Commission, CoA's, the free Design Review Committee, ASG, mutual concerns and mutual goals, etc. The goal of the grant is make boards of historic districts more effective in decision-making regarding historic structures.
 - c. David Hoggard raised the idea of **replacing the green street name signs and community watch signs** in Aycock with brown signs that are approved to reflect the historic nature of the district. This idea had been discussed and approved in previous board meetings, but no action was taken, perhaps due to board member changes after annual elections. Christina Cantrell volunteered to research the idea with the city. Laura Wall stated that there is a person at the city responsible for signage and she is planning to forward the information to Ms. Cantrell.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05 pm.