

**Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association**  
*Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*  
*for*  
**October 23, 2005**

**Present:** Betsey Baun, Mebane Ham, Mindy McReynolds, Jacynthia Mitchell, Steve Ruzicka, and Dave Wharton.  
**Absent:** Ritch Chapman, Tracy Lamothe, John Mandrano, and Miki Moore.  
**Guests:** Sandra & Herman Browning, David Howth, Chet Arnold, Ben Wilson, Laura Wall, Ray Burton, Mr. Price (AMS Principal) and Officer Greg Gardner.

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Board President, Betsey Baun.**

**I. MINUTES**

Minutes from the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were not formally approved.

**II. COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**Officer Greg Gardner** addressed questions about the last 30 days worth of e-mail reported activity.

- Suspicious Characters - specifically the 'Howard Hughes look alike' and the 'keys locked in car' scammer. Neither has been caught.
- Community Watch Signs - Concerns raised by those attending included the need for more Community Watch signs. Greg will see if the neighborhood can purchase more.
- 669 Percy - the partying activity: in underwear on the street, drivers' frequent short visits, crack pipes on the premises. Greg will pass this information along to the street level drug team. The apartment unit of concern is unknown, but the renter might be 'Bonita'. Sam Zeely is the property manager. Greg mentioned that owners are more likely to evict tenants than property managers.
- Aycock Middle School Parking & Drop-Off - Chet Arnold produced a comprehensive plan to alleviate a dangerous situation at the school created by the confluence of parked cars and drivers dropping off and picking up students. He has followed the parking problem on Chestnut St. for many years. Last summer he spoke to Doug Matthews regarding the posting of signs to eliminate the parking problems, for informational purposes only. He never heard back from Mr. Matthews, and recently the signs suddenly appeared. Prior to the existing signs there were tow-in signs. People most affected (several of whom were in attendance) are in the 800 block of Chestnut Street, and Chet was able to obtain the opinions of nearby residents on that block to come up with a consensus plan. The issue is that there is dangerous traffic on Chestnut Street between 7:30-9:30 a.m. and between 2:30-4:30 p.m. while cars double- and triple-park as children are dropped off and picked up. There are serious safety concerns resulting from this traffic mess, exacerbated by school staff who park along the same section of Chestnut. Chet proposed, and confirmed the feasibility with Adam Fisher of GDOT, that the 2-hour parking signs be removed except from in front of the school, which will have new 'passenger loading zone' signs. Violators (parking or double/triple parking) would receive \$25 traffic violation tickets. (Chet noted that there is also an ordinance that prevents parking from within 25' of an intersection.) Also, Chet had surveyed and double-checked available parking on campus and on nearby neighborhood streets, discovering 141 available parking spaces within a 2.5-minute (round trip) walk of school buildings. If staff (except Mr. Price) could use those other spaces, he feels the traffic issue could be resolved. In order to make this plan work, Chet suggested a non-confrontational letter be sent home with students so parents are aware of the new plan, staff be assigned to park in areas other than on Chestnut Street, and that a traffic officer be available three times per week (M-W-F) for two or three weeks, initially issuing warnings, but then actual tickets. Mr. Price added his concerns about the safety problem, citing it as the worst he's seen, and that he agrees that we must find a solution. The area behind the cafeteria is reserved for school buses, so is not available for staff parking. He feels that the proposed solution are short-term, and that a longer-term solution will ultimately be needed. Aycock Middle School is now a magnet school and approximately 200 children are dropped off/picked up. After considerable discussion, the following motion passed unanimously:

***The Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association will work with Aycock Middle School to address staff parking and child drop-off/pick-up, and help develop both short and long term solutions.***

A committee (Dave Wharton, Mr. Price, Chet Arnold, Officer Gardner) will meet with the PTA on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. to work on short-term solutions. Another committee (Dave Wharton, Principal Price, and Mindy McReynolds) will work on long-term solutions,

### III. OFFICERS' REPORTS

#### **President's Report – Betsey Baun**

- Neighborhood Survey – Betsey passed out an example of the survey she would like to have distributed in the neighborhood. Ray Burton volunteered to assist Betsey as he has experience in this area.
- Max Thompson – Betsey mentioned that the letter regarding Max Thompson has been sent out, and we will need to follow-up with the City Council.
- Summit Ave. Coffee Shop - the Zoning Commission approved re-zoning of Stan Montgomery's property at 627 Summit Avenue for a coffee shop.
- Event Leadership – it was decided by consensus that Tracy Lamothe be in charge of locating volunteers for event leadership, and that Jacynthia Mitchell will be Marketing/Communication Coordinator, and the liaison to the Board from non-board represented committees.

#### **Vice-President's Report – Tracy Lamothe**

No report.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Jacynthia Mitchell**

- New Banking Relationship – Jacynthia requested we switch our bank account to one with Sun Trust since it is easier to access than First Citizens. A motion was unanimously passed:  
*The Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association Board of Directors authorizes Treasurer Jacynthia Mitchell to open a new checking account at SunTrust, and close the existing one at First Citizens Bank..*  
711 Park Avenue – Jacynthia reported that the open house was a flop, but that there is a serious buyer in Greg Lake. The deadline for proposals is November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **Community Watch – John Mandrano**

No report.

#### **Beautification – Ritch Chapman**

No report.

#### **Code/Zoning Enforcement – Dave Wharton**

- Bill Pixley's house on Cypress – Mebane Ham asked again to have the petition signed for an inspection of Mr. Pixley's house. Since he had responded in writing to our letter asking him to attend this meeting, it was decided that we would first check to see if the water had been turned on, and if not, the petition would be circulated among board members. Mebane will check with the water department.

#### **Newsletter/Website – Dave Wharton**

- Fall 2005 newsletter – Dave passed around a sample for corrections and input.

#### **Design Review Committee and Historic Preservation Commission – Mindy McReynolds**

No reports.

**Next Board Meeting:** November 27, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Leo's place.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:15 p.m.