

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
for
May 24, 2005

Present: Betsey Baun, Frankie Green, Tracy Lamothe, Mindy McReynolds, and Dave Wharton.

Absent: David Hoggard, Bob Lauver, Lynn Leonard, Miki Moore, Bruce Oakley, Cat Paige and Steve Ruzicka.

Guests: Officer Greg Gardner, Eric Kraus (potential new resident at 682 Chestnut St.), Bob McReynolds, and Jacynthia Mitchell.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Board President, Betsey Baun.

I. MINUTES

Minutes from the April 26th meeting were approved after making corrections to item IV. Summit Avenue Corridor, changing the firm name from 'Heinz' to 'Haden Stanziale', and to item X. Community Watch that Frankie Green had not been available to attend board meetings due to the death of four family members over a short period of time.

II. COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Officer Greg Gardner was in attendance to provide feedback to our proposed 'Walk-Abouts' format, answer questions, and pass along some city police information:

- Car Stereo Noise/Summit Ave. Motorcycle Racing – The existing noise ordinance bars vehicle stereo noise 50' from cars. Jacynthia had a complaint about loud car stereo noise, and Mindy complained about the weekend speeding motorcyclists along Summit. The board asked that Greg have police monitor noise and speed along Summit and Yanceyville. He's had a request from Laura Wall to look at speeding along Yanceyville, and will make available to the neighborhood a radar trailer to monitor speeding.
- Recent Gun Shots – Greg suggested that we report any/all gunshots and to give as complete information as possible, encouraging us to give our names so that officers and get the 'full story' from us personally to avoid anything getting lost in translation from the dispatcher.
- Walk-Abouts – Jacynthia presented her plan for enlisting walkers for the neighborhood and making their presence more visible by providing T-shirts to identify them. Greg's concerns were that we don't make our presence seem too police-like, as that might actually invite trouble. Considerable discussion ensued about the shirts, with the wearing of them being left up to each walker. Jacynthia will work with Bob McReynolds to enlist walkers, and then arrange for a training meeting, which we have invited Greg to attend. Preliminary guidelines include walking in pairs (minimally), with a cell phone. Dogs are encouraged to participate.
- Gang & Drug Awareness Seminar – will be held on May 31st at 6:30 p.m. at Gethsemane Baptist Church at 3701 Heath Street. Greg encouraged us to attend this parent-oriented meeting to present a program that had originally been slated for schools.
- New Central Station Open House is scheduled for June 28th at 2620 S. Elm-Eugene Street ('Rock211'), which houses the water operations department, provides public meeting spaces, and includes the nearby fire station. The event begins at 9:00 a.m.
- National Night Out Kick-Off Meeting will also be held on June 28th at the church located at Greene and Fisher streets. National Night Out is scheduled for August 2nd.

Greg also added that he is sometimes in a green Pontiac Grand Prix with tinted windows, so if we see his car parked along one of our streets, he's just working.

III. OFFICERS' REPORTS

President's Report – Betsey Baun

- Cedar Street Meeting – Betsey had received a call from the News and Record and found out about requests for business development on Cedar Street that would require rezoning and tearing down several old homes. She feels that keeping and revitalizing downtown neighborhoods is an important issue, so she attended one of the two city-sponsored workshops about the Cedar Street neighborhood. These workshops were developed by city planners as “Given the number of new developments (such as First Horizon Park) and recently proposed development, the City...realizes that the Cedar Street neighborhood will see a number of changes in the coming years...which can either be ignored or...understood and guided to make sure that the neighborhood is transforming in a way that is desirable for everyone.” She said both sessions were well prepared by city staff, and elicited a lot of feedback from area neighbors. The City will return with a follow-up presentation with a summary of the information they obtained through these public meetings, with the goal of preparing a Strategic Area Plan for zoning, streets, sidewalks, and development opportunities.
- National Night Out – Betsey asked for a volunteer to coordinate, and Bob McReynolds agreed to make arrangements for the event this year. Jacynthia will assist. He was asked to also contact Ginny Hunt and Renee Franklin to help coordinate the children's parade.
- Summit Avenue Corridor Study Update – Betsey had no additional information regarding the status of the corridor study beyond the e-mail she sent to board members on May 12th copying city staff member Stefan-Leih Kuns' responses to her inquiries: *Summit Avenue is in the contract phase and we are currently exploring coordination with market analysis and studies with the War Memorial project so that these efforts are covered comprehensively.* There was additional discussion about the time it is taking to get a contract signed and the process started. Mindy pointed out that Dick Hails, Planning Director, indicated last year that this study would likely begin in January. Since it is now almost June, we want to know what the holdup is.
- War Memorial Stadium Update – Again, Betsey had forwarded Stefan-Leih's response on May 12th: *personally do not have any information on War Memorial other than the review committee has selected a firm. I would imagine that they are, as well, in the contract negotiation stage.* Dave Wharton shared that an architectural firm has been selected.
- Decorative/Historic Street Signage – Betsey reported that Bruce Shumate was going to meet with the contractor (Belew's Creek Construction) that Mindy had suggested. Stefan Leih's May 12th response: *Decorative street signage that exists in College Hill and Fisher Park was done 15 years ago. It doesn't really matter that there are signs in other areas of the city, the reality is that we had no one bid the first time around and only one person bid the second time around. It means that no one is interested in doing this project. There is nothing we can do about that and it doesn't matter how many other signs have been installed throughout the rest of the city, if we can't find someone who is interested in installing them, then we're out of luck. New neighborhoods that have decorative signs, like for instance Grandover, were installed by the developer and his contractors. Many vendors won't bother with the signs and will only do decorative lights because it's more profitable. We have discussed with GDOT about the possibility of internal installation but it is and has been their policy that decorative street signs are not installed nor maintained by the city of Greensboro and they are not willing to set a new precedent. This is why the ones at Grandover, for instance, were installed by the developer. We are currently trying to research and negotiate with other lighting contractors to find someone that might be interested in this project and will not charge us as high a price. On the missing letters- they have been installed for 3-4 weeks, now. I updated the neighborhood last month that they were being installed and painted to match and just hung up the phone with Bobby Coltrane who verified that they've been up and as of a drive-by yesterday he said they still are up.*

Vice-President's Report – David Hoggard (absent)

No report.

Treasurer's Report – Tracy Lamothe

- Financial Report – there is a balance of \$6326.40.
- Audit – Tracy was pleased to report that all the information is now with the auditor. The County wants an additional small report that tracks our receipt of the grant and its payment of the Preservation Greensboro loan.
- Fundraising –we can begin our fundraising activities again after June 30, 2005, and we can raise up to \$10,000 per year (grants count).

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Watch – Frankie Green and Bob McReynolds

- 744 Park Avenue – Frankie reported that the new owner of this property (Jolene Jones, UNCG professor) called her on two occasions: first to report two black men who approached her, asking if she lived alone; the second time when two large planters were stolen from her front porch (also reported to the police).

Beautification – Lynn Leonard (absent) and Cat Paige (absent)

No report from committee.

- 711 Park Avenue – Jacynthia reported that she met with Mike Cowhig and was given the following information: The city is going to pay the neighborhood approximately \$3000 to help 'market' this property to prospective developers (be available to show developers through the house). There is going to be a six-month period in which developers may bid (starting at \$30,000) on the property, but the bids must include a detailed plan for rehabilitating it. The city has appraised the house for \$100,000 (nine rooms, 1766 finished sq. ft.) and city staff feels it will take \$142,000 (including lead paint abatement) to rehabilitate it, giving it a finished value of \$120,000-\$150,000.

Design Review Committee and Historic Preservation Commission – Mindy McReynolds

No reports.

Code/Zoning Enforcement – Bob Lauver (absent) and Bruce Oakley (absent)

No report from committee.

- Amy's House Mindy brought up the question of the type of service being provided at this second Room at the Inn facility. In light of the questions that were raised over the Summit House's purchase of a small house across the street on Charter, it seems fair to make a determination about the facility expansion on Park. Mindy will e-mail Bill Ruska at the City zoning department and ask that he make a determination.

Newsletter – Mindy McReynolds

Mindy reported that a newsletter committee has been formed (including Jacynthia and Caroline Stancil), and a newsletter should be ready by mid-June. Also, we've asked Jacynthia to take on the role of a neighborhood news coordinator, but that position may be expanded. Mindy requested that while walkers are being solicited, that mailboxes and empty houses be noted so that an accurate newsletter count can be determined.

New Business

- Block Captains – Mindy asked that block captains be organized again so that information can quickly spread throughout the neighborhood. They can be part Community Watch captains, part Block Mother who has the job is disseminating information on the block, and welcoming newcomers.
- COA Request for 515 Summit Avenue – Not enough information was provided for the destruction of an old garage. Mindy will inform the HPC of this at tomorrow's meeting.

Next Board Meeting: June 28th at 7:00 pm, St. Leo's Community Room. President Betsey Baun will not be in attendance at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.