

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2013

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Monday, October 28, 2013 at Sternberger Artist Center. Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by President Linda Fusco. Secretary Sara Farnsworth was in attendance to record the minutes.

Present: Linda Fusco, Sara Farnsworth, Shawn Wriede, Christina Cantrell, John Mandrano, Esther Maltby, Matthew Thomas, Robert Coltun.

Absent: Bert VanderVeen, Mindy Zachary, Joe Kilpatrick, Mebane Ham (alternate).

Guests: Officer Douglas Campbell of GPD, neighbors Jon Enos, Joyce Enos, Bruce Oakley, Zora Medor.

- 1. Crime Report:** Officer Doug Campbell reported on the status of the homeless encampment near the Summit Avenue side of the Leftwich Tunnel, also accessible from the railroad tracks, that has been the source of major litter problems. It is located on City of Greensboro and Railroad right-of-way. He coordinated with the railroad police on the issue. Two individuals were found to be camping there, with a tent and a great deal of trash. The individuals said they would vacate by November 3rd and would clean up the mess.

Officer Campbell reported that he spoke to Joe Kilpatrick (absent) about our request for more Neighborhood Watch signs. Officer Campbell found that our neighborhood already has 12 signs in place, and he distributed a list of the signs with their positions. Rather than add more signs, we could reposition them to make sure that signs are located at neighborhood gateways. **ACTION ITEM for Christina Cantrell: Give list of Community Watch sign locations to Joe and have him make recommendations about potentially repositioning signs if desired.**

Officer Campbell distributed neighborhood crime statistics and mentioned some issues of note: The number of larcenies from motor vehicles (including unlocked cars) rose from 2 this quarter last year to 6 in the current quarter of this year. Crimes in the neighborhood in the past month also included a scooter theft on Bessemer, 7 calls for incidents at Aycock Middle School, tools stolen from Advance Auto, tires/rims stolen from Bill Black dealership, vandalism to cars at 516 5th Ave, a marijuana arrest, theft of car speakers at 736 Park. Officer Campbell distributed a photo of a man named Walter Wallace who has been involved in previous crimes in the area and was recently caught on surveillance cameras inside the nearby Arby's restaurant after closing (having hidden in the restroom as the restaurant closed).

- 2. Secretary's Report:** September minutes were unanimously accepted.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Christina Cantrell distributed the Treasury Report and reported that a full accounting of the Oct. 26 Pecan Festival would be reported at the next meeting. Total balance (before Pecan Festival expenditures/donations) was \$8,137.63, with \$4,363.61 in the General Fund. Escrow accounts total \$3774.02: \$3,000 in Park Ave Proceeds, \$113.77 in Dunleith Community Garden fund, \$650 in BSN Grant fund secured by Zora Medor, and \$10.25 in Aycock Middle School PBIS donation program fund. Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously.

Christina reported that when she transferred the Aycock accounts from First Citizens Bank to Wells Fargo in January (because of lack of online support), the account was supposed to have been opened as a nonprofit account with signature authorization. Recently she realized the bank mistakenly opened it as

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2013

a sole proprietor account with Christina's personal information and social security number. The only way to fix the problem was to open a new account with a different account number. The bank provided new checks, and Paypal was set up to use the new account.

Christina reported on options for the Park Avenue Escrow Account. A few years ago, the city agreed to pay \$3,000 to the neighborhood association if they helped to market the property at 711 Park Avenue. The funds were earmarked by the association at the time to be used as part of a revolving trust account to fund grants or loans. Research was done of minutes from the time period, and nothing was found directing how the funds were to be used. At the June 2013 meeting, the issue of how to use the funds was raised, and it was decided that a decision should be delayed at that point until after decisions were made about the 740 Chestnut Street property.

At this point, Christina explained that the association can do one of two things to "un-purpose" the account: Option 1 would be to go to probate court. Option 2 would be to let the neighborhood in general know via the listserv and some other means and explain that we would like to release the \$3,000 from its restriction to be transferred to the General Fund or some other project. In discussion, board members pointed out that it may be best to move the funds into the General Fund rather than restricting their use further to some other purpose, that notification could be sent out via listserv and via newsletter, and that Shawn Wriede's Alleyway Issues report might present a potential use for the funds.

Motion was put forth that the Neighborhood Association release the Park Avenue escrow funds into the General Fund on the condition that we notify the entire neighborhood. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **President's Report:** Linda Fusco accepted board members' "homework" assignments of potential Mission Statements for the Neighborhood Association and discussed mission statements. She distributed copies of the city's current MSD Fund Expenditure Guidelines to board members. She reported on the status of the Tree Inventory program. The City announced the program to neighborhood property owners via postcard. One neighbor notified the city that he did not want anyone trespassing on his property.

Linda reported that Betsey Horth resigned from the Board of Directors via email to the Executive Committee on October 3, 2013, citing lack of transparency, but she expressed a desire to continue working on the entry sign at Yanceyville/Bessemer and a few other projects with which she had been involved, such as the Mission Statement. The Board acknowledged her service and wished her well. The Community Development Committee will be collapsed, as the majority of its work (branding and signs for the neighborhood) has been completed.

Motion to appoint alternate board member Robert Coltun as a full board member, to serve the remainder of Betsey Horth's term, was unanimously approved.

Linda reported that the Alleyway Issues Committee had been reassigned to Shawn Wriede to take a different approach. Mindy Zachary was advised of the change, agreed to it, and is developing some ideas for a new committee she hopes to lead.

Linda reported that an NCA&T student group (American Institute of Chemical Engineers) is seeking to "adopt" Sternberger Park, and Parks & Recreation asked if the Neighborhood Association would be on

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2013

board with this. The group would clean up the park at least twice and possibly mulch and plant flowers. After two cleanups, a sign would be installed bearing the group's name. Neighborhood residents liked the idea when polled, and the city official notified the student group that they had been selected.

Linda opened the floor for discussion on the potential path forward for a Cultural Landscape Report and/or Alleyway Study. Discussion centered around the status of the project at the City level, and roles of the City and the Neighborhood Association in coordinating on the project. The following points were made in discussion: MSD funds are city-controlled, and their use is subject to the MSD program guidelines devised by our city officials (distributed to attendees). The City works to seek input and include the Neighborhood Association in its decision-making, but the City is the ultimate authority. Stefan-leih Geary of the City has made the point that we should cut out duplication and avoid replicating what has already been done, such as documenting historical information that has already been documented elsewhere. The City has taken a hands-off approach to all city alleyways and would not provide direction on how to reopen an alleyway. A City action may have inadvertently contributed to the alleyway drainage problems.

5. **Alleyway Issues Report:** Shawn Wriede reported on the problems surrounding the alleyway behind the 600-odd block of Park/600-even block of Summit. He reached out to four engineering firms, and only one, Jewell Engineering Consultants, responded. Doug Jewell, in discussions with Shawn, proposed doing a walkthrough and visual inspection as well as researching GIS and other resources to figure out a solution. This work would cost approximately \$1500 - \$2000. Doug Jewell feels that this may give us enough information in order to come up with a plan to resolve the issue.

In order to facilitate the hiring of an engineer to get this issue resolved, Shawn proposed that the board discuss possibly using money from the Park Ave. Fund of \$3,000 which is currently sitting without a purpose. Shawn emphasized the importance to our neighborhood of resolving the excess water issue to ensure that our old houses don't rot from the bottom up. In his view, the Summit Ave/Park Ave block would be a good place to start due to the severity of the problem, affecting the 17-19 houses bordering the alley.

Shawn expressed the view that resolving this issue could provide us answers that could be applied elsewhere in the neighborhood. The City has told us that if we can prove it was an issue they created they would be willing to help us resolve it. If the issue lies elsewhere, then it will be up to us to decide what we can do next.

Discussion centered around the lack of availability of funds to pay for the potential expenditure via the General Fund, though funds could be made available if the Park Avenue Escrow account funds were freed up. Christina Cantrell wants to be specific about what we would use these funds for in any communication made to the neighborhood. **ACTION ITEM for Christina Cantrell: Work up the wording for a notification of the neighborhood about transfer of escrow funds to general fund/alley engineering study.**

6. **Historic Preservation (COA's):** Board members reviewed **COA application #1707, 518 Fifth Avenue**, to replace deteriorated wood siding with new wood siding. **Motion was put forth to support the application. Motion was approved unanimously, with current HPC member abstaining.**

Esther Maltby asked about the process for pursuing housing compliance violations. **ACTION ITEM**

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2013

for Matthew Thomas: Send Esther the link for Housing Compliance reporting.

7. **Technology Report** - Shawn Wriede reported that known technical issues are resolved.
8. **Welcoming Committee** - Linda Fusco reported no known new neighbors. Christina Cantrell brought up the procedures for notifying new property owners of the Historic District Program and Guidelines, after a resident of another historic district recently made major changes to their home without a COA and claimed they weren't aware they lived in a historic district. CDs containing the Guidelines are included in welcome baskets, but we need a means of ensuring that we don't miss any new property owners. Perhaps realtors who are neighborhood residents could keep us apprised.
9. **Luminaries** - Linda Fusco reported that Bert VanderVeen and Joe Kilpatrick (both absent) are handling the project.
10. **Greensboro Neighborhood Congress** - Matthew Thomas reported on the Candidates' Forum held at the last GNC meeting. For our district, the focus was on economic development and giving business incentives to large corporations.
11. **School Liaison/PBIS Project** - Esther Maltby reported that she has taken a vanload of PBIS incentives/prizes to Aycock Middle School, including drinks. Neighbors are encouraged to give via the Paypal link on the neighborhood website.
12. **Pending Action Items** from last meeting:

Action Items Still Pending:

- A. September 2012, **Bert VanderVeen: Try to figure out who has old "sandwich board" signs which we've lost track of, to advertise the Pecan Festival.** - Luminaries - Linda Fusco reported that Bert VanderVeen and Joe Kilpatrick (both absent) are handling the project.
 - B. December 2012, **Mindy Zachary: Contact appropriate city official about granite curb replacement.** - No Action.
 - C. March 2013, **Betsey Baun: Send Linda address of the white house on 5th avenue for which we should pursue zoning enforcement that has been vacant for at least 5 years**
 - D. August 2013, **Betsey Baun: Contact GPD officials (Lt. Kevin Moore and Captain Cranford) and Action Greensboro (Dabney Sanders) about potentially having the Leftwich Tunnel considered a part of the Greenway, and installing a security camera in the tunnel.** - Linda and Shawn talked to Dabney Sanders about the Greenway. The Greenway will be too far away to include the Leftwich tunnel. The Security Camera research has been reassigned to John Mandrano.
 - E. August 2013, **Betsey Baun: Facilitate a process for creating a mission statement for the neighborhood association.**
13. **Pecan Festival Wrap-up** - Sara Farnsworth reported that approximately \$360 in donations were collected at the Oct. 26th Pecan Festival in support of the Neighborhood Association and the Aycock Middle School PBIS program. A full accounting of expenses/donations will be given at the next meeting.

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2013

She thanked those board members who helped, as well as neighbors Susan Elliott and Jinni Hoggard who organized the Pecan Bake-Off, Ned Billington and Brenda Brown who organized children's activities, Tom Franklin who set up the large tent, Mark Maltby, the Aycock Middle School Choir, and Tom Troyer for the entertainment, and all those who attended, shared food, and helped in a variety of ways. City Council candidates Kee and Fox were in attendance, as well as mayoral candidate Nancy Vaughan and several Aycock Middle School administrators, teachers, and parents.

- 14. Security Cameras at Tunnel and Bridge** - John Mandrano will lead the effort to install security cameras at the Max Thompson Bridge and the Leftwich Tunnel. Mandrano's home on Hendrix St. could serve as a home base for a bridge camera (providing power and internet connection). The Leftwich house would most likely have to serve as a base for a tunnel camera. Board members gave recommendations for websites, equipment, etc. **ACTION ITEM for John Mandrano: Look into options for security camera options and get prices.**
- 15. Mural Painting** - **ACTION ITEM for Sara Farnsworth: Start RFP process for tunnel mural with Stefan-leih.**
- 16. New Business/Other** - Bob Coltun reported that his office donated 3 cases of books that he's been using to restock the Little Free Library. Bob also reported that a gentleman known as R.A. (a.k.a. "Batman") who was a minister and who was frequently seen walking the neighborhood was heard to have passed away of cancer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.