

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
August 23, 2010

Present: Bert VanderVeen, Laura Wall, Brian Heagney, Charlie Connor, Shawn Wriede, Fabio Camara, David Hoggard, Linda Fusco

Absent: Jon Mitchell, Christina Cantrell

Guests: Mindy Zachary (Resident), Robert Coltun (Resident), Douglas E. Campbell (GSO Police Dept.), Clint Spivey (new owner of Breedlove Radiator), Deanna Miller (Goodwill Industries)

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 pm

Community Watch Report: Officer Doug Campbell reported on various crimes occurring in July and August 2010:

- bike and guitar stolen from van parked on street
- license plate stolen from Auto Zone parking lot
- Aycock Middle School – wallet stolen from car
- 507 N Church – someone reported as canvassing area
- 311 Leftwich – box fan stolen from porch
- 694 Chestnut – unlocked house entered by non-resident
- 230 S Park – bicycle stolen
- 727 Chestnut – drunken brawl
- 211 Leftwich – bike stolen from screened porch (other side of Leftwich)
- 910 S Elm – laptop stolen
- Office Depot – graffiti in bathroom

Petition for House Inspection: Officer Campbell noted that 5 people can sign a petition and thereby request a house inspection from the City if they suspect a code violation (more about this under **New Business** later in this report).

Executive Center: Officer Campbell asked if ownership of Executive Center had been resolved (more about this under **Executive Center** later in this report), as this property has been mentioned by the Board on numerous occasions as being a crime-related property.

Auto Zone: Officer Campbell noted that there were two cars being repaired in the street near Auto Zone when this meeting started. He asked if the Board would like him to follow up, since we complained before about someone working on cars in that area. Board members asked Officer Campbell to follow up when he left the meeting.

Note: It is a violation of the City code to wash, grease, or repair vehicles on the street, unless the repairs are made necessary by an emergency. (City Ordinance Sec. 16-162 Parking for the purpose of selling goods, washing, etc.)

Introduction of Clint Spivey (New owner of Breedlove Radiator):

Clint recently purchased the Breedlove business. He told the Board that his shop is a general repair shop and that they work on Japanese and American cars. He is willing to give a discount to residents. He is also willing to supply drinks to a future neighborhood party. Bert suggested an upcoming Urban Harvest event. Clint requested information on how to communicate with residents.

Action Item: Linda Fusco to follow up with thank you to Clint for attending, and to send him the information on how to subscribe to List Serv.

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Presentation by Deanna Miller, Marketing Specialist, Goodwill Industries, 1235 S. Eugene St., Greensboro, NC:

Deanna spoke about a potential partnership with Aycock for collection of donated items. She noted that the items collected would be used within a 5-county area serviced by the local Goodwill branch. She explained that Goodwill revenues are generated by what is sold and that the money is used to help people get jobs. She proposed a pilot program whereby Goodwill will provide 50-100 residents with 16-18 gallon totes (no cost to residents for totes) that can be filled with donated items and left on front porches for regularly scheduled pickups. The totes will probably be white with the Goodwill logo and phone # (color must be different from recycling containers). Receipts will be left for income tax deduction at sites of pickup. She indicated that Goodwill is looking for a neighborhood that has a high level of communication (perfect fit for Aycock). Deanna distributed some business cards and flyers about Goodwill Industries. After Deanna's presentation, the Board voted unanimously to support the program. (Laura made the motion and Linda seconded).

Action Item: Linda Fusco to follow up with thank you to Deanna for attending, and to notify her that the Board would like to move forward with the offer.

Alleyway Issues Committee:

Linda Fusco distributed a detailed report on the progress of this committee. Committee met on July 31 at the home of Shawn Wriede to discuss storm water issues in the 600 block of Summit and the 600 block of Park. Also on the agenda (to a lesser extent) was alleyway ownership. It was decided that storm water issues would be given precedence. Those attending indicated that they would be willing to write testimonials detailing their storm water issues. To date, the Committee has collected 4 testimonials. If 1 or 2 more testimonials are received, the Committee will move forward with a formal written communication with City officials. Mindy Zachary made a few comments about a resident in Fisher Park who was awarded \$125,000 for a similar issue. The Board reminded Mindy that the Association does not plan to sue the City or be part of someone else's law suit.

Bert noted that there was a similar storm water issue in the 700 block of 5th (the side backing to Summit). The city installed new drains, as it was deemed to be a public park issue because the ground had become spongy and trees were dying. The Talberts were affected and so was Cathy Scott.

In summary, the Committee is attacking the storm water issue first. The alleyway ownership issue is on hold. Another problem that the Committee might be forced to discuss is a sewage issue on the 600 block of Park Ave. See separate report for details.

Executive Center:

It was reported at a previous meeting that the Executive Center might be under new ownership. The Watkins family (Paul Watkins) owns the Center, a dental office, and an empty lot on Yanceyville. It was reported that there are \$80K in back taxes owed to the County and City. It was also noted that the units are up to code. The person trying to buy the Executive Center

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(Steve Peoples) was unsuccessful, so the Watkins family still owns it. The City is looking into trying to take back the property for back taxes.

NNO Update:

National Night Out (August 3) was a success. There was a short meet-and-greet at St. Leo's at 6:00 pm. Sergeant Bud Blaylock spoke to residents about police/community cooperation in fighting crime. The following directors were elected for 2-year terms at the meeting: Bert VanderVeen, Laura Wall, Christina Cantrell, Shawn Wriede, and Linda Fusco.

After the meeting residents fanned out into the neighborhood and handed out flyers and "Neighborhood Watch" stickers. Afterwards, residents met back at the homes of 3 residents for porch parties: Judy Worsley (814 Cypress), Lillian Govus (606 Park), and Linda Fusco (721 5th).

Tree Mulching/Watering:

The Board made an arrangement with Dunlap to mulch the newly-planted trees which were under stress. Dunlap also agreed to water them on a weekly basis (if needed). It was noted that resident John Mandrano and some others had undertaken watering of the trees on an emergency basis until Dunlap or someone else could be hired.

Action Item: Bert to notify List Serv (and in particular John Mandrano) that Dunlap will be taking care of the tree watering. Bert to request that Mike Cusimano check the trees planted at Aycock Middle School for mower damage to trunks.

Bylaws Changes:

Vote on the Bylaws changes is tabled until September meeting, due to short notice given to residents and complaint by Tracy Lamothe. Linda Fusco will follow up on researching "Title 1" reference in Bylaws, so that Board can make a determination as to whether to remove that reference.

Action Item: Linda Fusco to follow up on researching Title 1 reference in Bylaws. Also to respond to Tracy Lamothe, who complained about the short notice given to residents, removing Title 1 reference, and changing the word "corporation" to "Association."

Action Item: Linda Fusco to notify List Serv that vote is tabled until September meeting.

Action Item: Shawn Wriede to put proposed Bylaws changes on website

Elections:

The following were elected as officers of the Board for a term of one year:

President – Bert VanderVeen

Vice President – Laura Wall

Secretary – Christina Cantrell

Treasurer – David Hoggard

President VanderVeen appointed Linda Fusco as ombudsman of the group.

HPC:

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COA application from Judy Worsley regarding 517 Park Ave - replacement of metal roof with asphalt and removal of chimney – denied by HPC.

Request for trailers for temporary classrooms at Aycock Middle School – put on hold as per Mike Cowhig.

There are no new applications pending for Aycock to be discussed at August 25, 2010 HPC meeting.

Action Item: Laura Wall to email D. Hayes (School Board) regarding the use of the empty car dealership space (Bessemer and Cypress) as temporary student classrooms (Betsey Baum's idea).

New Business:

A neighbor complained to Bert about one of Judy Worsley's houses (address unknown). Board will follow up with a letter to the City, if the address can be determined. Another property discussed is an abandoned house next door to Fabio (the address is 806 5th Ave). Board will follow up with a letter to the City about that property also. As noted in Officer Campbell's report, we need at least 5 signatures on the letter for the City to take action against either property owner.

Charlie Connor told the Board that he will be leaving the Board in the near future, since his house on Chestnut is under contract for sale.

Fabio indicated that he will have less time to serve as he will be doing a lot of traveling. Theresa Talbert will be asked to take over his responsibilities as "Neighborhood Watch Leader."

It was discussed that certain individuals are regularly sleeping on the benches in Sternberger Park. The police cannot remove them if they are not doing anything illegal.

Action Item: Bert VanderVeen to request that Theresa Talbert take over Fabio's responsibilities, and to request that Barry Talbert install something on park benches to deter those who are regularly sleeping on benches.

Action Item: Charlie Connor to compose letters regarding both houses mentioned above and get at least 5 (if not all) Board members to sign.

Minutes of July 26, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting:

Bert motioned that the minutes be approved. David seconded. Motion was carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda J. Fusco (filling in for Christina Cantrell)**