

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

August 29, 2011

Present: Christina Cantrell, Betsey Baun, Sara Farnsworth, Linda Fusco, Lillian Govus, Khalil Perilstein, Catherine Scott, David Wharton, Shawn Wriede

Absent: Fabio Camara, Bert VanderVeen

Guests: Residents Niki Lefaive, Bob Coltun, Officer Doug Campbell

Meeting Called to Order: 6:33 pm

1.) Community Watch Report: Officer Doug Campbell reported bicycle thefts on Chestnut St. and Cypress St. and a car theft on Chestnut St. None are recovered. Officer Campbell stressed the **importance of maintaining serial numbers of bicycles and other possessions** to facilitate identification of stolen property. In other police incidents, bank checks were stolen from a mail box on East Hendrix St. and cashed. A disturbance was reported at 724 Percy St, but the resident did not press charges as she knows the woman causing the disturbance. 807 Sullivan St. was the site of a found body, but the death is not suspicious.

Officer Campbell asked whether the **traffic in front of Aycock Middle School** continues to be an issue, as reported by Laura Wall last spring. Although no current board members live on that section of Cypress St., Lillian Govus has been at the school and her impression is that school officials actively encourage parents to be mindful of resident's driveways when dropping off and picking up school children. Board members will continue to monitor the situation.

Sara Farnsworth asked about the best method to **alert the police to people sleeping in the tunnel** under Murrow Blvd. She has been calling the non-emergency number, but often the service agent cannot find the location, since there is no street address for the tunnel. Officer Campbell encouraged her to call 911 since Chief of Police Ken Miller advocates that method. In response to further questioning, Officer Campbell feels that calling about each incident is more effective than several residents calling about the same incident.

Betsey Baun wanted to know which **police incidents affect the weekly map** in the Greensboro News and Record. Officer Campbell stated that it is only residential burglaries and not other incidents such as bicycle thefts.

2.) Election of Officers: Linda Fusco handed out ballots with a proposed slate of candidates and a place for write-ins. The slate (President: Bert VanderVeen, Vice President: Linda Fusco, Secretary: Christina Cantrell, Treasurer: Christina Cantrell) was voted in 8-1.

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
August 29, 2011

- 3.) **Orientation for new members:** Christina Cantrell, Linda Fusco, and Shawn Wriede discussed mission, board initiatives, bylaws (which were last updated September 27, 2010), board meeting dates and times for the new board members. It was noted by Betsey Baun that the meeting agenda is not always sent to Aycock residents in a timely manner (although the bylaws do not stipulate a specific timeframe). It was **agreed that the meeting agenda needs to be sent prior to the day of the meeting.**
- 4.) **President's report:** Bert VanderVeen was unable to make this meeting. No report.
- 5.) **Secretary-Treasurer's report:** Minutes from the July board meeting were distributed, reviewed, and **approved on condition** from Shawn Wriede that the day be verified; he felt the date was incorrect. Treasurer's report for July was distributed.

Action Item for Christina Cantrell - verify date of last meeting and ensure it matches the meeting minutes.

Action Item for Shawn Wriede - post corrected and approved minutes on Historic Aycock District website.

- 6.) **Aycock website and NEXTDOOR.com:** Board members were asked before the meeting to review a website called NEXTDOOR.com to determine its merit. After discussion, it was generally felt that including NEXTDOOR, as sort of a chat room for residents only, over the existing website/listserv may be too complex. A **better approach might be to monitor listserv members** more carefully. The current registration process already provides information to allow validation. However, there are some "look-and-feel" aspects that could improve the existing website. Shawn Wriede and Linda Fusco volunteered to prepare a mock-up.

Action Item Linda Fusco/Bert VanderVeen - include review of revised website on next meeting's agenda.

The **Strategic Plan for Aycock** was temporarily removed from the website on August 6, 2011 in response to a resident who complained that negative information in it is adversely affecting her ability to sell her home. This document is part of a planning process developed in conjunction with the city of Greensboro and should serve to measure progress of the neighborhood. After discussion, Sara Farnsworth made a motion to place the document back on the website immediately with the agreement that the Strategic Plan be reviewed and updated annually to include measurable goals. The deadline for 2011 is October. The motion passed unanimously. Lillian Govus and Betsey Baun volunteered to assist.

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
August 29, 2011

It was suggested that the website include a page for testimonials from residents about desirable reasons for living in Aycock to balance negative aspects.

- 7.) **PayPal account:** Linda Fusco and Shawn Wriede discussed merits of **opening a PayPal account for the purpose of asking for donations** for the Aycock general fund. Sara Farnsworth was a motion to go forward with opening a PayPal account for Aycock and it unanimously approved.
- 8.) **COAs:** None this month.
- 9.) **Wrap-up from NNO:** **Aycock sponsored five porch parties** on August 2, 2011 to recognize Neighborhood Night Out. The parties were hosted by Mebane Ham, Jill Oakley, Harriet Riemer, Lillian Govus, and Linda Fusco/Bert VanderVeen. Most of the parties appeared to have been well attended, but it was suggested that board members make a special effort to visit parties hosted by newcomers to the neighborhood. There was good representation from City Council members and the Greensboro police force.
- 10.) **Pecan Festival:** The Pecan Festival concept from last year proved to be a lot of work and generated limited profit, so Linda Fusco and Christina Cantrell have a working plan to transform it into a community picnic, along the lines of the Fisher Park Picnic held each spring. A request to close Fifth Ave in front of Sternberger Park has been submitted and a band has been lined up. The event is scheduled on **Saturday, October 1, 2011** (with a rain date of October 2) from approx 4 pm to 8 pm. **A planning session is scheduled for Thursday, September 1 at 2 pm at Linda Fusco's house.** Ms. Fusco, Ms Cantrell and Ms. Farnsworth are planning to attend.
- 11.) **Aycock Middle School Fence:** The fence around Aycock Middle School has been damaged and Quality Fence Builders provided an estimate of \$1,327.16 to repair it. Although the fence was initially built with the assistance of MSD funds, it was not intended for MSD funds to continue to maintain the fence. It is reported that county lawn-movers may have damaged the fence. The board decided to investigate further and provide enough facts for a vote at the next board meeting.

Action Item for Christina Cantrell – check with City Department of Housing and Community Development regarding limitations of using MSD funds for general maintenance.

Action Item for Lillian Govus – check with school officials to determine cause of damage.

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

August 29, 2011

Action Item Linda Fusco/Bert VanderVeen – include Aycock fence update on next meeting’s agenda.

12.) Request for partial/full reimbursement of replacement historic house plaque:

Mebane Ham ordered a plaque for her home denoting it as a Historic House several years ago. The information on it, and all the plaques ordered, comes from the registration form for the Summit Ave National Register of Historic Places, which was prepared by Marvin Brown in 1993. Evidently, the information for Ms. Ham’s house is incorrect and she ordered a new plaque with corrected information. She made **a request to the Aycock Neighborhood Association to reimburse all or part of the cost**, since it was under the auspices of the board that the plaques were ordered. After discussion, Khalil Perilstein made a motion to decline the request. The motion passed 6-3.

Action Item for Christina Cantrell – inform Mebane Ham of board’s decision.

13.) Committees: The following board members volunteered for committees:

- a. **Betsey Baun for Community Development**
- b. **Sara Farnsworth for Community Watch**
- c. **Catherine Scott and Lillian Govus for Welcoming Committee**
- d. **Sara Farnsworth for Assistant Editor of Newsletter.** Resident Niki Lefaive also volunteered for this position.
- e. **Shawn Wriede and David Wharton for Aycock listserv**

14.) New Business: Betsey Baun is interested in re-opening discussion regarding **War Memorial Stadium**. Bob Morgan is retiring in October and that may provide an opportunity for action. The Aycock neighborhood is limited in providing MSD funds since the structure is not on property contiguous to the rest of the historic district. In addition, the city appears to be in talks with A&T University about the property. There is no information regarding the purpose A&T plans for the property; it may not function as an athletic field. **Betsey Baun volunteered to prepare a letter to the city; the board encouraged this action.**

Meeting Adjourned: 8:14 pm.