

**Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association**  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
For January 26, 2009

**Present:** Christina Cantrell, Charlie Conner, Maliq Culbreath, Linda Fusco, Shawn Patch, Justin Smith, Bert VanderVeen, Laura Wall, Shawn Wriede

**Absent:** Jennifer Lanza, Julie Welch

**Guests:** Ken Tutterow, CEO, Children's Home Society, Bob Coltun

**Business meeting called to order at 6:36 PM**

**Agenda Items:**

1.) Children's Home Society presentation of property at 740 Chestnut St - As a follow-up to the November meeting's discussion on the **property at 740 Chestnut St**, Ken Tutterow, CEO of Children's Home Society of North Carolina (CHSNC), presented some preliminary drawings created by architect Carl Myatt to the board. CHSNC is partnering with the Guilford County Department of Social Services to provide a facility with a residence look-and-feel (as opposed to an office building) for foster children age 13-18 to learn life skills such as check writing, opening bank accounts, grocery shopping, cooking, resume writing, etc. that they may not learn while in foster care. The facility is not designed to be a residence hall and will operate during daytime hours during the week and on Saturday. CHSNC is proposing to renovate the property at 740 Chestnut St for this use if approved by the Aycock Neighborhood Board. The original portion of the structure was built in the 1920's. The building (owned by Cone Mills) was donated to CHSNC in the 1940's; it was enlarged to its current 5,000 square feet, the front elevation redone, 2 half-baths added (there are no full baths in the facility), and 20 parking spaces added. The building was used as office space by CHSNC. It is currently zoned as a congregate care facility. The renovation proposed by Mr. Tutterow includes interior and exterior refurbishing to contain a computer lab, training classrooms, private consultation areas, snack bar, and kitchen. It also includes landscaping. However, Mr. Tutterow does not want to spend an extensive amount of time or money on design plans if the board objects to the facility. He is certain that funding is available for renovations if the decision is to move forward. During discussion, the board had some concerns about the exterior plans which do not rework the structure to an historic, original design, but in general, favored CHSNC's plan for the structure and felt that CHSNC has been a good neighbor with well-maintained buildings and yards.

**Bert VanderVeen's Action Item – contact Mr. Tutterow via email to let him know of the board's approval.**

2.) Vice-President's report. Laura Wall and Mike Cusimano (Greensboro Urban Forester) requests the Aycock board members to attend the **February 17 session of City Council** (Council Chambers, Melvin Municipal Building, 5:30 pm) **to present each Council member with a Neighborhoods T-shirt** as a thank-you for supporting the Neighborhoods Initiative.

Ms. Wall presented pricing provided by New Garden Nursery to **maintain the 4 medians on Yanceyville St and the Max Bridge** (the footbridge over the railroad tracks connecting E. Hendrix St to Church St. The total annual cost is \$9,066.00 which includes maintenance twice a month and annual color. The city of Greensboro requires a bid process, so Ms. Wall asked for suggestions for other landscapers. Maliq Culbreath suggested that the NC A&T Master Gardener

class might be a resource since students are required to provide hands-on experience. Dunlap Lawn Service was suggested. Ms. Wall is planning to contact the city since they already mow the grass to see what other services they might provide. Note that the Aycock Neighborhood is responsible for the maintenance of the Max Bridge, which was part of an agreement years ago when Fisher Park built the bridge. It was recommended by Shawn Patch that we revisit the agreement with Fisher Park (after we have a few bids) to request monetary assistance with the maintenance. Fisher Park does not have MSD funds; all their operating capital is raised via fundraisers.

**Maliq Culbreath's Action Item – contact Linda Brandon at NC A&T regarding the Master Gardener resource.**

3.) Web Communications report – Shawn Wriede reported that a number of changes have been made to the **Aycock website**. He appreciated the help of Linda Fusco and Bob Coltun who assisted with suggestions. Most of the board members now have an email address with an Aycock domain (e.g. [Shawn@historicaycock.org](mailto:Shawn@historicaycock.org) and [Christina@historicaycock.org](mailto:Christina@historicaycock.org) ) which forwards to the person's actual email address. Mr. Wriede requests ideas for content to build the website. The idea of web advertisements or preferred vendors was discussed; Sunset Hills allows vendors to advertise, but only if referred by a neighbor. This idea resonated with several board members.

4.) Communication – Linda Fusco reported that last newsletter was delivered in mid-January. The newsletter is available on the Aycock website. The **next newsletter is scheduled for April 1, 2009**. Ms. Fusco is working on a **New Neighbor Introduction Kit** and solicited ideas for inclusion in the kit. Some of the items suggested: map of Greensboro, discount coupons, Historic District Design Guidelines, and Community Watch house decals. The plan is to distribute the kit to all homeowners and renters of homes (not apartments) in the neighborhood. There are several real estate agents in the neighborhood who can assist with this information.

5) Treasurer's Report – Justin Smith reported a **balance of \$5,465.14 in the Aycock account**. There is an additional \$1,000.00 from Greensboro Beautiful earmarked for the median planting (Ms. Wall mentioned that the invoice for this activity should have already been received. Mr. Smith will re-request the invoice from New Garden.) Another \$1091.00 is a grant earmarked for Good Green Fun Fair. Mr. Smith reported that \$294.00 was raised from the Chili Fundraiser at the Farmer's Market on December 3, 2008 and \$796.00 was raised from the sale of luminarias for the December 14, 2008 lighting of the neighborhood.

The new **Post Office box** is available. The address is:

Aycock Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 27415  
Greensboro, NC 27415

The discussion regarding **check-writing limits** resumed from last meeting. The board unanimously approved that any check written on the Aycock account over the amount of \$1,000.00 requires two signatures: the Treasurer's and one other board member's.

Mr. Smith is planning to contact the former Treasurer, Tracy Lamothe, about the forms required to be submitted for taxes.

6.) Secretary's report – **Minutes from November 24, 2008 meeting** were presented, reviewed, and accepted.

Christina Cantrell attended the last Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) meeting on January 10, 2009 and provided an update on the **Protest Petition** that GNC is supporting and which City Council voted to reinstate on January 21, 2009. The Protest Petition is a state law which permits 5% of adjacent owners to a property that is under rezoning consideration to request City Council to review and approve with a ¾ majority instead of the usual simple majority. The state law was rescinded in 1971 by the Greensboro City Council with no public discussion, so the reasons for exempting Greensboro from the state law are not known.

Volunteers are needed to **represent the Aycock Neighborhood at each GNC meeting**. Bert VanderVeen volunteered to attend the next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2009 at the Central Library on Church St. The rest of the meetings this year are scheduled for Saturday mornings from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The following are the meeting dates:

- Saturday, January 10, 2009
- Thursday, February 12, 2009
- Saturday, March 14, 2009
- Thursday, April 09, 2009
- Saturday, May 09, 2009
- Thursday, June 11, 2009
- Saturday, July 11, 2009
- Thursday, August 13, 2009
- Saturday, September 12, 2009
- Thursday, October 08, 2009
- Saturday, November 14, 2009
- Thursday, December 10, 2009

7.) President's report – Bert VanderVeen held a meeting at his home on January 16, 2009 to **revitalize the Community Watch program**. Aycock's community resource officers (Jim Cayton and Bud Blaylock) attended as did some residents. The group decided that a "walking group" of a few residents on a regular schedule would provide a consistence presence and may deter anyone with malicious intent because the group would greet all passers-by. The resource officers are very supportive of this idea. Laura Wall has some material regarding a Community Redevelopment program which she will distribute to board members via email. Ms. Wall plans to contact Mike Jones of the City Greensboro about Community Watch street signs and house decals. According to Mr. Jones, the city will install any signs, but the neighborhood is required to purchase any signage. Ms. Wall plans to gather the details and the board agreed to vote via email on any proposal.

According to Rich Loman, **revisions for the Aycock Middle School sign** are underway.

Mr. VanderVeen reported that he has a meeting with City Councilwomen **Goldie Wells** on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 to follow up on ideas gained from the **Leadership Conference** on October 23, 2008.

**Aycock Winter Potluck** – Shawn Patch offered to guide the annual potluck dinner for residents. **Sunday, February 22, 2009 at 5:00 pm at the Aycock Middle School auditorium** was selected

as the date. Mr. Patch will contact Valerie Atkins, the principal at Aycock Middle School, to request the facility. Ms. Wall will assist with designing a flyer and several board members volunteered to distribute them. Residents will be grouped (perhaps by first letter of last name) to bring a category of food item (categories include: meats, salad/vegetable, drinks, desserts, etc.)

**Bert VanderVeen's Action Item – contact Jennifer Lanza for assistance with the Winter Potluck.**

8.) Other business - Charlie Connor asked for signatures to **force a city inspection of the property at 519 Summit Ave** (commonly referred to as the “The Castle”). There is suspicion that the property does not meet code for use as a rental unit. The city, due to a low number of city inspectors, is behind schedule on inspections.

Justin Smith suggested **movie presentations as a neighborhood activity**. Some ideas were to hold it at Sternberger Park (drape a muslin cloth over the pergola for a screen), Aycock Middle School (project on the side of the building) or someone's home. A projector is required for the event.

The question was raised about the status of the **Summit Ave Corridor project** which was approved by voters as part of the larger Transportation bond during last fall's election.

**Christina Cantrell's Action Item – contact Adam Fischer of the Greensboro Department of Transportation regarding the Summit Ave Corridor Plan.**

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The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.