

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
June 25, 2012

Present: Betsey Baun, Christina Cantrell, Linda Fusco, Lillian Govus, Khalil Perilstein, Shawn Wriede

Absent: Fabio Camara, Sara Farnsworth, Bert VanderVeen, Dave Wharton

Guests: Officer Douglas E. Campbell, Sergeant L Patterson, City Councilman Jim Kee, County Commissioner Candidate Ray Trapp, Residents Pam Grigsby, Ben Berryhill, Len Ebright, James Rounds, city staff Stefan-leih Geary, guest speaker Joe Wilkerson

Meeting Called to Order: 6:32 pm

1.) **Guest Speaker: Joe Wilkerson**, Uptown Artworks gallery owner, advocated in favor of a **business improvement district** that encompasses downtown Greensboro, the Aycock neighborhood and portions of east Greensboro. His vision includes a 6-acre park along Bessemer St where vacant and dilapidated buildings now stand. He proposes a self-tax (like MSD funds) to pay for amenities and maintenance. He believes that improvements (suggested by the board of this new district) would bring much needed development to east Greensboro. The website for his effort is www.gallerypark.org. Mr. Wilkerson did not have details such as how to elect a board or how to manage the self-tax funds. He did not request the Aycock board for an official vote of support; he is in the process of communicating the proposal to all parties.

2.) **Community Resource Officer Report:** Officer Doug Campbell reported the following **police incidents between May 28 and June 25, 2012:** June 3 – a disturbance at 811 Summit Ave involved a man spitting at cars. This has been reported previously, so police are interested in locating the man who is a 50-ish black male, 6 feet tall with grey hair and goatee. June 6 – a hit-and-run was reported at 753 Chestnut St. A red 2005 Toyota Corolla parked on the street was sideswiped. June 6 – stolen vehicle from 747 Park Ave. June 16 – domestic disturbance at 734 Park Ave. June 16 – burglary at 804 Cypress St, although no visible force was used, so police suspect entrance through an unlocked window. No items reported missing.

Officer Campbell stated that a number of ‘burglary, no force’ incidents in Fisher Park this month indicate that **residents feel comfortable leaving windows unlocked or hiding keys** on premises. Officer Campbell stressed that this is **not a good idea** and urges all residents to secure their residences.

Officer Campbell reported that he worked with the owner of one of three vacant houses on Park and **“No Trespassing” signs will be posted at the location** to

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discourage loitering. In response to a complaint about people in the Leftwich tunnel, it was decided that no loitering signs may be helpful at that location.

Action Item for Doug Campbell: Request “No Loitering” signage at both ends of the Leftwich Tunnel.

Officer Campbell was asked about **specific laws regulating parked cars on streets**. The regulations state that a vehicle parked on a street must be functional and must have a valid license tag. It cannot remain in the same place for more than one week.

3.) Community Watch: Sara Farnsworth was not present; no report.

Pending Action Item for Sara Farnsworth: Submit an incident report each time she experiences an unsafe or unsavory situation at the Leftwich Tunnel.

Pending Action Item for Bert VanderVeen: Investigate the possibility of partnering with Parks and Recreation on a deterrent such as flash cams at the Leftwich Tunnel.

Pending Action Item for Bert VanderVeen: Contact Donna Gray to see whether the Leftwich Tunnel can be painted in the same manner at the railroad overpasses at the Downtown Greenway.

4.) Secretary-Treasurer report: Minutes from the May 2012 board meeting were reviewed and approved. There is no Treasury activity this month.

Christina Cantrell requested the board to approve funds to restock Dogi-Pot bags for the three pet stations in the neighborhood (the one at Sternberger Park, although installed by the neighborhood, is restocked by the city). The cost is approx \$100 per 10-roll pack. A motion was made to **authorize reordering of Dogi-Pot bags to the Treasurer role** which in the future will not require a board vote. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

5.) President’s Report: Bert VanderVeen was not present; no report.

6.) Community Development: Betsey Baun reported that her meeting with Russ Clegg had to be rescheduled. She will report next month.

7.) Historic Preservation (COA): Linda Fusco reported that there are three COAs

- i. **#1520 – 311 Leftwich St.** – replacement of windows, adding deck, place HVAC unit on roof. The **board chose to vote no decision** since this is an after-the-fact COA which does not adhere to the historic preservation guidelines. (Note: Ms. Cantrell recused herself on all COA motions).

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- ii. **#1546 - 717 Percy Street** – Replace metal porch railing with wood railing. **Board approved unanimously.**
 - iii. **#1548 - 695 Percy Street** – Construction of accessory structures; widen driveway. **Board approved unanimously with the condition** that the new shed more closely resemble the historic character of the main house.
- 8.) **Newsletter:** Linda Fusco reported that the **July newsletter will be ready for delivery this weekend.** She presented the delivery schedule.
- 9.) **Technology:** Discussion item regarding an email to the listserv this month advertising a house for sale in College Hill. There was a question whether that was an **appropriate use of the listserv.** Several board members felt that email was a service since the property in question is in another historic district; others felt it was advertising for business. Shawn Wriede, Webmaster, already monitors email traffic on the listserv so the **board voted unanimously to authorize him to handle inappropriate listserv use** as needed.
- 10.) **Welcoming Committee:** Lillian Govus presented a **welcome basket to Mark Walter at 614 Percy St.**
- Ms. Govus resigned her position** as she accepted a position at DeKalb County Schools in Atlanta, GA and will be moving this month. The board will miss her and wishes her well.
- 11.) **Old Business:**
- i. **Permanent trashcan at Leftwich Tunnel:** David Wharton was not present, so this item is pending.

Pending Action Item for David Wharton: Add location of Max Thompson to pending request.

- ii. **Little Free Library:** Linda Fusco found that the boxes for the Free Library are actually more expensive than originally approved by the board last month. The correct price is \$925. The **board voted unanimously to approve the new cost (using MSD funds)** and directed Ms. Fusco to continue the ordering process.
- iii. **Park Ave stone wall repair:** Linda Fusco reported that **Piedmont Stone submitted a bid to repair the wall for \$21,090.00.** They were the only vendor who submitted a bid. Stefan-leih Geary stated that the board may make a decision even if there is only one bid since this is highly specialized work. After discussion, the **board voted unanimously to accept the bid.** Ms. Fusco

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will send all property owners a consent agreement; if any one property owner does not consent, the project cannot continue.

- iv. **Strategic Plan:** Lillian Govus and Betsey Baun presented the final version of a "Progress - what's been done" section and a "Next Steps" section for each action it in the Strategic Plan. The **board voted unanimously to post the final version** on the Historic Aycock website.

Action Item for Shawn Wriede - post addendum to Strategic Plan on website

12.) New Business:

- i. **Chili Booth at Greensboro Beautiful Wreath Sale** - Lynne Leonard contacted Christina Cantrell about the **neighborhood selling chili at the Wreath Sale on Thursday, Nov 29, 2012**. There will be other vendors selling food items and crafts. The **entrance fee for a food table is \$50.00**. In previous years, there was no fee, so the event was a good fund-raiser for the neighborhood. However, after the discussion, the board decided that the partnership with Greensboro Beautiful is an important consideration, even if the profits will not be as great and **voted unanimously to sponsor the chili cook-off**. Christina Cantrell volunteered to manage the event.
- ii. **National Night Out** - is Tuesday, Aug 7, 2012. The board decided that **multiple porch parties have been very successful** and opted to continue that tradition. However, the elections will be held at only one location (Linda Fusco's porch party).
- iii. **Downtown Greenway Public Meetings to solicit opinions on the section of the greenway which borders the neighborhood** are scheduled for Tuesday, June 26. Christina Cantrell volunteered to send an email to the listserv advertising the event. Ms. Cantrell plans to attend the meeting.
- iv. **Streetlight at Leftwich appears missing** - Ben Berryhill reported that the streetlight is gone. Christina Cantrell volunteered to contact Kym Smith about its disappearance.
- v. **Brick gutters and granite curbs** - Since water resources is installing new water lines and fire hydrants (a COA was approved for this work) and removing the road surface, it was suggested that it's a good time to restore the brick gutters. In addition, James Rounds pointed out that granite curbing is missing. Stefan-leih Geary stated that MSD funds could be used to replace them.

Action Item for Betsey Baun - contact Mike Mabe of Water Resources to request exposing brick gutters.

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Action Item for Khalil Perelstein - identify street section where granite curbs are missing and report at next board meeting.

13.) Meeting Adjourned: 8:25 pm.