

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
March 29, 2010

Present: Fabio Camara, Christina Cantrell, Charlie Conner, Justin Smith, Laura Wall, Bert VanderVeen

Absent: Linda Fusco, Brian Heagney, David Hoggard, Shawn Wriede, Erica Yamaguchi

Guests: Officer Doug Campbell; Lillian Govis, Park Ave resident; Pearlie Saunders, Park Ave resident

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 pm

1.) Community Watch Report: Resident Pearlie Saunders of Park Ave asked if the board could assist in resolving nuisance complaints on the **Campus Courtyard apartment complex** at the corner of Sullivan St. and Homeland Ave and noise ordinance violations at the **Mrs. Winner's at 814 Summit Ave.** Ms. Saunders relayed several recent incidents. Officer Doug Campbell stated that the apartment complex is on the border between the Central and Eastern police precincts, but that he would run a report of police involvement. The board agreed to write a letter to the property management of Campus Courtyard and include the police reports. It also agreed to write to the corporate headquarters of Mrs. Winners to ask for assistance in resolving the noise ordinance violations in the parking lot. The parking lot is private property with no signs prohibiting loitering.

Action Item for Bert VanderVeen and Christina Cantrell: draft letters to Campus Courtyard property management and to Mrs. Winner's corporate headquarters requesting action to resolve neighborhood complaints.

2.) Officer Campbell presented the police report for March and the **number of theft from vehicle incidents remains high**, although several specific incidents seemed to involve unlocked cars and valuables left in plain sight. It appears that residents are still not vigilant against property crime. The **Executive Center at the corner of Summit Ave and Dewey St** is still an issue and Officer Campbell promised to run reports of police involvement to build a case to shut the business down.

3.) COA – Linda Fusco was not present, but there are **no COAs from Aycock** for the March 31 HPC meeting. Ms. Fusco sent the schedule **to deliver April 1 newsletters** via email.

4.) Secretary's Report: The **minutes from February 22, 2010** meeting were approved. The next **Greensboro Neighborhood Congress meeting** (7 pm - 9pm at the Central Library on N Church St) is Thursday, April 9, 2010. Ms. Cantrell is planning to attend. All Aycock residents are welcome.

5.) Treasurer's Report: Justin Smith reported the following balances:

- a. Total Balance = \$6,435.63
 - i. General fund = \$2,761.03
 - ii. Dunleath sub-account = \$488.39
 - iii. CCFE = \$186.21

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iv. Park Ave = \$3,000.00

- 6.) Vice-President's Report: Great American Cleanup** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 10, 2010**. Meet at Aycock Middle School (instead of the usual Sternberger Park) at 8:30 am. Laura Wall will purchase garbage bags and gloves. Charlie Connor will purchase 4 boxes of donuts, 1 container of coffee, and a case of bottled water.
- 7.) President's Report:** Bert VanderVeen reported that resident Greg Lake of Park Ave asked whether the board can assist in preventing employees of the Sanford Center from **parking their personal vehicles on Park Ave** during their shift. Mr. Lake contacted the city and the city did place "resident parking only" signs in front of his house, but Mr. Lake is not satisfied with the solution because there are still a lot of non-resident cars left on the 600-700 blocks of Park Ave during the day and he feels it detracts from the streetscape. Laura Wall reported that the 800 block of Cypress St also has non-resident cars parked due to school pick-up and drop-off.

Action Item for Bert VanderVeen: contact the city for options , such as requiring employees to park in the War Memorial lot on Lindsay or installing resident only parking signs in the 600 and 700 blocks of Park Ave and the 800 block (non-school side) of Cypress St.

Mr. VanderVeen reported that he obtained 2 additional quotes to **repair the deteriorating stone wall on Park Ave** that property owner Jim Rounds brought up last month. Mr. Rounds original repair quote is \$48,000. Brickworx submitted a quote of \$32,750 to rebuild the wall of concrete block and reface with the original stone. Lafayette Brown's quote is \$29,000 which requires replacing the rods from the wall into the sod. All quotes include removing the trees whose roots are causing the damage. Mr. VanderVeen would like more information before presenting the board with a motion and a vote. The board is cautious with proceeding since the property owner does not actually live in the neighborhood and because the house itself is in poor shape. However, the stone walls are a fundamental characteristic of the neighborhood and they are in the public right-of-way.

Mindy Zachary continues to contact the board regarding the **poor drainage issues that plague her house on Summit Ave**. She insists that the city is responsible, but there is no indication that storm drains ever existed in the alley when it was city-owned and now those alleys have been deeded to property owners. The board expects that Summit Ave streetscape improvements may correct some of the storm sewer issues that many residents experience. The board feels that MSD funds are not appropriate for this situation because drainage issues are not a fundamental characteristic of the neighborhood and are not in the public right-of-way.

Mr. VanderVeen reminded everyone to attend the **Downtown Greenway public meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 2010 from noon – 2 pm and again from 5 pm – 7 pm**. His impression is that the final drawings do not vary substantially from the ones presented last December, even after the community input. There was discussion whether to press forward

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with the **neighborhood's desire to remove the Summit Ave bridge**, even though the Greenway development team has made it clear that the money to dismantle the overpass does not exist in the Greenway budget. It appears that making the bridge more attractive and pedestrian-friendly is the most the neighborhood can expect.

The Greenway discussion segued into ideas **to lobby City Council to sell bonds to commence the Summit Ave Corridor project**. Bert VanderVeen sent several emails to the listserv asking residents to write City Council members to support the project. Laura Wall is dismayed that District 2's City Council Member, Jim Kee, has not returned her phone calls on the subject. Mr. VanderVeen is concerned about rumors to decrease the property tax in Greensboro which will make it much more difficult to sell bonds. Ideas on ways to catch the attention of City Council were discussed. The most popular idea was sending a single children's shoe with a letter and brochures to City Council stating that the neighborhood has taken the first step and won't City Council continue in the partnership. David Wharton created a video promoting the streetscape improvements and that (either link or CD) can also be sent to council members. The Council is expected to vote either April 6 or April 20 on the matter.

Action Item for Justin Smith: send email to listserv with canned ideas to help residents lobby City Council.

Action Item for Laura Wall: draft letter to City Council and send letter, shoe, and brochures to City Council's administrative assistant.

Action Item for Bert VanderVeen: contact Andy Scott about feasibility study for design options of Summit Ave bridge.

Action Item for Bert VanderVeen: contact David Wharton for the location of his video.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:32 pm.