

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
For March 30, 2009

Present: Fabio Camara, Christina Cantrell, Maliq Culbreath, Linda Fusco, Justin Smith, Bert VanderVeen, Laura Wall, Shawn Wriede

Absent: Charlie Conner, Jennifer Lanza, Shawn Patch

Guests: Officer Melanie Daniels, Officer Doug Campbell, Officer Jim Cayton, Aycock resident Mitchel Sommers, Jerry Leimenstoll of PCDF (Piedmont Community Design Forum), John Linn of PCDF

Business meeting called to order at 6:36 PM

Agenda Items:

1.) Community Watch Report: Fabio Camara gave an update on the **Greensboro Community Watch program** initiated by Ryan Shell. The purpose of the program is to connect the various neighborhood watch programs to facilitate more seamless watch coverage across Greensboro. The idea is supported by the Greensboro Police Department. Officer Cayton stresses that raising consciousness about suspicious activity is key (such as being alert to car alarms and unusual noise). He also suggested that people on the listserv place "Community Watch Alert" in the subject line of emails sent specifically to alert fellow neighbors of suspicious activity. This allows community resource officers who review emails to place priority on that communication.

Mr. Camara plans to **update the Aycock Neighborhood resident list by visiting each residence** (owned and rented) and updating the name and contact information (phone and/or email address) for every street address within Aycock. Another suggestion offered by Mr. Camara is to print **business cards with Community Watch** and welcome information that can be used to hand out to people unfamiliar to residents. This method is neither threatening nor aggressive and could be useful in averting potential criminal activity by demonstrating that residents are actively vigilant.

Officer Daniels reported that the only incident this month was a **breaking and entering into the residence at 605 Park Ave** at approx 8:45 pm on March 29, 2009. An intruder broke down the back door; the residents were at home and fled through the front door. The intruder left, apparently without taking anything.

Laura Wall asked the community resource officers if it is possible to restart **emails of police reports**. Betsey Baun used to receive formatted reports that are easier to decipher than the online reports available on the city's website. Officer Cayton suggested contacting Philice Foddrell of the Crime Statistics at 433-7321 or 574-4035 (the number for the Maple St station).

A question was raised about an email circling the Internet that suggests thieves steal cars to get the GPS and garage door opener in the car for the purpose of robbing the house. Officer Cayton reported that the **theft of GPS devices in Greensboro appears to be solely for resale**; no robberies have been reported in which the method of entrance is the owner's garage door opener or the location of the home found by a GPS device. Officer Cayton reminded the board that people often do not record the serial number of their GPS device, making tracing and recovery almost impossible.

2.) Request for structure alteration: Long time resident Mitchel Sommers asked to meet with the board because he is interested in **screening in his front porch at 425 Brandon St.** Bug activity makes it difficult to enjoy his porch. He met with Mike Cowhig, who saw evidence of former screens on the porch and suggested Mr. Sommers meet with the board prior to submitting a COA (Certification of Approval) since the guidelines are not clear about screen porches. Mr. Sommers brought photos and plans with him to the meeting. The general feeling of the board was that this request would not be approved since the request involves a front porch (as opposed to a request to screen in a side or back porch) and that screens were most likely not part of the original structure (1927) and probably added in the 1960's or 1970's. Two alternate ideas were suggested: one is a removable screen that is not part of the porch structure and the other is curtains made of mosquito netting or other gauzy material which would prevent mosquitoes from entering the porch, but is not a permanent structure.

3.) Dunleith update: Bert VanderVeen invited Jerry Liemonstoll and John Linn of Piedmont Community Design Forum to the board meeting as a result of a meeting Mr. VanderVeen and Ms. Wall had with City Councilwomen Goldie Wells. Dr. Wells was unaware of many aspects of the Dunleith property, charrette, and design proposals even though this information is on the city's website. Mr. VanderVeen wanted to explore ways to communicate the information so that more people are aware of the **potential of the Dunleith property and the Aycock neighborhood.** No action or decision has been taken since the "next steps" meeting held by Mike Cowhig on February 24, 2009. There was a lot of discussion on the topic, with the PCDF architects favoring a champion from the Aycock neighborhood. Christina Cantrell, who helped organize the charrette, believes it is inappropriate for any resident to shoulder this role, partly because no one has been designated as spokesperson by the property owner. However, there was considerable interest in ways to market the neighborhood (and the Dunleith site as a subset). There was no consensus on a direction, so a task force will be formed to determine the best approach.

4.) HCD Report: Shawn Patch was unable to make the board meeting due to a work conflict. The HCD meeting was held on March 25, 2009 with 2 COAs from the neighborhood. One is to replace windows and doors as part of the Lead Safe Housing Program rehabilitation project on the duplex located at **520 Percy St.** The second is an after-the-fact accessory on the commercial building at **513 Summit Ave.** Mr. Patch will provide an update on these two at the next board meeting.

5.) Web Communications: Shawn Wriede reported **continued updates to the Aycock website** and outlined proposed changes to pare down content by providing links to previous newsletters. Board members were enthusiastic about the changes.

6.) Aycock Newsletter: Linda Fusco reported that the **2nd quarter Aycock Newsletter** is at the printers and will be ready to **deliver on April 1, 2009.** Ms. Fusco will place the newsletters on her porch when she gets them. The schedule of distribution was verified at the meeting. Ms. Fusco emailed an advance copy of the newsletter to all board members. Board members complimented the choice of articles and format.

7.) **Treasurer's Report:** Justin Smith reported **no changes from last month.**

8.) Secretary's report: A motion was made and approved to **accept the minutes from the last meeting.**

No board member was available to attend the **Greensboro Neighborhood Meeting** on March 14, 2009. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, April 9, 2009** from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Central Library on 219 North Church St. Christina Cantrell is out of town that day; Bert VanderVeen volunteered to attend. As a reminder, Aycock's official representatives for the GNC are Christina Cantrell, Bert VanderVeen, David Wharton, Laura Wall, and Charlie Connor.

Action Item for Bert VanderVeen – place date of next GNC meeting in personal calendar.

9.) Garden Club: Maliq Culbreath has been very active in setting up a community garden. Valerie Akins offered the use of **Aycock Middle School grounds for the community garden.** The plan is to have 4 raised beds totaling approx 300 square feet. Current Garden Club members include Mr. Culbreath, Rebecca Fagg of Cypress St. and Karen Neill, newsletter editor of Guilford County Gardener. A Building Stronger Neighborhood grant is available to fund the effort, but may not be approved in time for spring planting.

10.) President's Report: Bert VanderVeen reported that Zora Medor has an additional \$900.00 from an earlier grant, which is now allocated for **Earth Day activities on April 4, 2009.** This series of events is designed to promote sustainability. Organic seedlings will be available. More information is forthcoming.

Mr. VanderVeen reported that **trees from the Arbor Day** event at the Farmer's Market are now with Mebane Ham.

Action Item for Christina Cantrell – contact Mebane Ham about detail of gift of trees

Great American Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2009. Volunteers meet in Sternberger Park at 8:45 am. Mark Townsend is heading up this effort.

A motion was made to induct **Fabio Camara as the newest Aycock Board member;** the motion was approved unanimously.

Note: the Vice-President's report was postponed to next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.