

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

**Present:** Bert VanderVeen, Laura Wall, Christina Cantrell, Charlie Conner, Maliq Culbreath, Linda Fusco, Shawn Wriede, Jennifer Lanza

**Absent:** Shawn Patch, Fabio Camara, Justin Smith

**Greensboro Police Department:** Officers Jim Cayton, Doug Campbell, Kyle Pope, Bud Blaylock

**Special Presenters:** Jerry Leimenstoll and John Linn (PCDF), Daniel Leiker (Urban Harvest)

**Residents and Others:** Erica Yamaguchi, Betsey Baun, Marché Clarke, Sam Holcombe and his architect Doug Spencer, William Conklin, Roxanne Krumm, Michael Eldredge

**Meeting Start: 6:30 p.m.**

**Community Resource:**

Officer Jim Cayton and his associates discussed the recent rash of petty thefts in Aycock. Officer Cayton urged homeowners to take photos of items stored on porches or outside houses and to mark them or chain/tie them wherever practical. Also, serial numbers should be kept in personal file, as items are easier to track that way. He also urged residents to report all crimes, even petty thefts.

Laura Wall asked if there was anything that the Police Department could do to help protect our newly-installed fence at Aycock Middle School. She reported that the fence is already badly damaged by individuals climbing the fence (especially the one in the lower field). She noticed an adult soccer team that plays at the school on weekends without permit. They have moved the goal posts more than once, and they leave the field littered. Officer Cayton suggested that we establish a list of who is permitted to use the field, and then call in the offense to the Police Department. Tom Franklin of Guilford County Parks and Recreation is in charge of keeping track of who is permitted to use the fields. Laura will follow up by contacting Tom Franklin. According to Laura, the school is going to put up "No Trespassing" signs in an effort to help.

The officers were unaware of a recently reported Bank of America robbery, and said that some of these reports turn out to be bogus. Officer Cayton alerted that there has been a rash of flat screen TV thefts from local businesses throughout the area.

**President's Report/COA Items:**

516 -518 5<sup>th</sup> Ave – Owner Cornelius - request for large magnolia tree to be removed between properties was continued from 4/29/09 meeting to 5/27/09 meeting.

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**President's Report/COA Items:**

688 Chestnut – requested replacement of windows, doors, and shutters on a 5-unit apartment building as part of Greensboro's lead abatement program. The HPC staff approved the renovation, providing that wood be used instead of vinyl for the windows. The louver doors previously discussed by our Board did not seem to be an issue.

425 Brandon St – front yard screened porch was approved as long as the original porch railing was used and exposed, premium grade lumber was used, and the design did not alter or detract from the design of the original porch. Also, homeowner must provide detailed drawings.

New Request: 611 5<sup>th</sup> Ave – screened porch addition

Presented by Doug Spencer, architect working with homeowner, currently a commissioner for the HPC and previously worked on the Design Review Committee (contact #953-8994)

Homeowner Sam Holcombe

Doug produced plans for a back yard addition – a screened porch 13.5' X 11.8' with 5 X 7 breezeway. The structure mimics the original roofline of the house. Bert VanderVeen motioned to approve the application on behalf of the Association. Laura Wall seconded. Motion was carried.

Shawn Patch, not present, indicated via email that he will not be able to continue as HPC Chairman, as his work load is too heavy at the present time. Linda Fusco will take over the bulk of the responsibilities, and Bert VanderVeen, Maliq Culbreath, and Charlie Connor will assist with attending meetings when possible. Linda and Bert will attend the next HPC meeting tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. at the Melvin Municipal Building in downtown Greensboro. HPC meetings are traditionally held the last Wednesday of every month.

**Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from previous meeting were distributed to all Board members present. There were a few corrections by Maliq Culbreath and Laura Wall. All are to be addressed by Secretary Christina Cantrell, and corrected minutes will be re-distributed via email. Minutes were approved as amended.

**Special Presentation by PCDF:**

Jerry Leimenstoll from Piedmont Community Design Forum (PCDF) brought the group up to speed on the Dunleith property charrette that ran November 18-21, 2008. The Dunleith site on Chestnut Street has been discussed for 30 some years, according to Jerry. The recent charrette was initiated by the City of Greensboro under the direction of Andy Scott, then Director of Housing and Community Development and now Assistant City Manager. The discussion involved the community (Aycock), the owner of the property (Daskalakis), the City of Greensboro, Jerry's group (PCDF), and a design planning firm out of Charlotte (DPZ). PCDF organized the conversation and tested the design recommendations. DPZ prepared three booklets with recommendations for five different

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**Special Presentation by PCDF:**

projects. Four of the projects were for residential uses, and the fifth (Design A) was a combination residential/urban agriculture application. Design A drew the most interest from the parties involved in the discussions. John Linn of PCDF recently met Daniel Leiker of Urban Harvest, who suggested an interim use for the property. The idea was presented to owner Daskalakis this morning, and he said "Yes." There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow with Andy Scott to further discuss the idea. It was reported that Andy Scott also wants Design A.

Daniel Leiker explained his proposal as follows: He has a non-profit and a for-profit (LLC) company called Urban Harvest. The for-profit portion installs residential gardens for local residents. His idea is to utilize the Dunleith property for food production, some of which will be sold at the Farmers' Market, some of which will be donated to local food banks, and some of which will be rented to local Fisher Park and Aycock residents (4- x 8' beds) for their own planting. According to Daniel, the project will start small (the grassy area behind the basketball court). Approximately 50% of the area will be dedicated to commercial food production. In conjunction with the food production portion, the non-profit portion will teaching students and neighbors about gardening, canning, drying herbs, etc. Some local residents (William Conklin, Roxanne Krumm, and Michael Eldredge are present at this meeting) have already signed on to help with the production in exchange for a share of the Farmers' Market profits. There is to be a neighborhood meeting either June 13 or 20 (date and location to be announced and distributed via flyer) to inform both Fisher Park and Aycock neighborhood about the project.

Maliq voiced his concerns that Aycock would be minimally involved in the project; however, Bert VanderVeen and Laura Wall want to allocate funds (up to \$1,900) to buy into the project. Bert VanderVeen and Laura Wall will formulate a proposal for Aycock participation. The project should not interfere with Maliq's Community Garden venture with Aycock Middle School. Another concern for the Board had to do with COA guidelines for fences, which will be a necessary part of the plan.

**Vice President's Report**

Laura Wall indicated that the medians at Yanceyville Street and the Hendrix Street (Max) Bridge, scheduled to be maintained by Robert Bowman, are not up to par. Bowman was notified, but nothing is getting done about the problem. He says that there is a weed called "nutsedge" which he cannot get rid of. There have been complaints from Greensboro Beautiful and the City of Greensboro. Laura Wall suggested offering the contract to Dunlap Lawn Service (they dug the holes for the NeighborWoods planting project). The Board was in agreement that Dunlap be hired and Bowman notified of his release. Laura will also follow up with City of Greensboro and Greensboro Beautiful. Bert VanderVeen will contact Stefan-Leih Geary from HDC.

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**Vice President's Report**

Laura got a quote of \$420 to remove some slats from the Aycock Middle School fence so that individuals now climbing over can just walk through. The school, according to Laura, does not have an issue with installing breaks in the fence. Laura motioned to allocate \$420 for the project. Bert seconded. The motion was carried. The Board was also in agreement to remove the rings from the fence in the lower field, as they are mostly knocked off already. Laura will ask for "volunteers with screw drivers" to complete the task.

Yard of the Month Award - There was a tie between 511 Charter and 808 Cypress. The award goes to 511 Charter (home of Mia McDonough). Laura Wall graciously withdrew her house at 808 Cypress. (Bert VanderVeen reported that both houses won when he sent out photos on 5/27/2009.)

Property Improvement Award - Laura Wall re-ordered the "Project Improvement Award" sign. The Board agreed that Jerry Ramsey (673 Percy St) should be the recipient of Project of the Month award.

Laura recommended hiring Lisa Watts, who does marketing for non-profits, to produce a PowerPoint presentation for Aycock. Lisa would charge \$20/hour and thinks she would need approximately 5 hours to produce such a presentation. The Board will take the recommendation under advisement.

Laura will be applying for some upcoming Greensboro Beautiful awards, including one for "Outstanding Landscaping and Continued Maintenance." Board members reported that the Community Watch signs are in place. Laura reminded members that Fisher Park's pot luck dinner is coming up this weekend.

**Web Communications**

Shawn Wriede suggested we create an email address ([awards@historicaycock.org](mailto:awards@historicaycock.org)) to be used in conjunction with both the Yard of the Month and the Project of the Month awards. He also suggested we have just one photographer take the photos of the houses each time, so that they are more uniform.

**Newsletter**

No Report

**Treasurer's Report**

No Report

**Community Watch**

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No Report

**Community Garden**

No Report

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Yours truly,  
Linda J. Fusco (for Christina Cantrell)