

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
September 26, 2011

Present: Betsey Baun, Christina Cantrell, Linda Fusco, Catherine Scott, Bert VanderVeen, David Wharton, Shawn Wriede

Absent: Fabio Camara, Sara Farnsworth, Lillian Govus, Khalil Perilstein

Guests: Resident Bob Coltun, Officer Doug Campbell

Meeting Called to Order: 6:34 pm

1.) Community Watch Report: Officer Doug Campbell reported a large number of police incidents this month. Richard Allen Webb of the Oaks Motel was arrested on Sept 12 at the intersection of Church St. and North Park Dr. after callers reported he was acting erratically. He was taken for a mental health evaluation by the arresting officer. Although this incident technically occurred in the Fisher Park neighborhood, it was on Officer Campbell's report because Mr. Webb's last known address is Summit Ave. An attempted robbery by a man wielding a screwdriver at 699 Chestnut St. occurred on Sept 15 and was reported to the listserv. There was insufficient description of the vehicle to pursue the suspects. Wrought iron fences were stolen from the property at 421 E Hendrix on Sept 7. Also on Sept 7, a person was cited for possession of marijuana at the Summit Executive Center. Two incidents occurred at Aycock Middle School: the vice-principal's office was broken into on Sept 10 and a razor blade was confiscated on Sept 15. An attempted car break-in occurred on Sept 15 at 819 Fifth Ave, but the suspect was not able to remove anything from the vehicle. Two days later on Sept 17, an attempt to cut a screen at 612 Fifth Ave also did not result in any missing item. However, on Sept 21, at 812 Fifth Ave, a side door was broken in and several items, including electronics, were reported missing.

2.) President's Report: Bert VanderVeen reported that Marguerite Suggs has not responded to the proposed revisions to the **landscaping plan around Breedlove Radiator**. Betsey Baun suggested that NC A&T University could provide landscaping as part of the Master Gardener student projects for future landscaping needs.

During NNO (Neighborhood Night Out), a recommendation was made to **invite City Council members to a neighborhood forum**. After discussion, it was determined that the board should pursue this after the November elections.

3.) Secretary-Treasurer's report: Minutes from the August board meeting were distributed, reviewed, and **approved on condition** from Betsey Baun to correct items # 6 (Strategic Plan) and # 14 (War Memorial). Treasurer's report for August was distributed.

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Action Item for Christina Cantrell – correct meeting minutes with Betsey Baun’s amendments and redistribute.

Action Item for Shawn Wriede – post corrected and approved minutes on Historic Aycock District website.

4.) Pecan Festival: The picnic is scheduled for Saturday, Oct 1, 2011 at Sternberger Park from 4 pm to 8 pm. Setup will take place from 2 pm to 4 pm. Fifth Ave in front of the park will be closed to thru traffic on Saturday. Mystkdog will provide musical entertainment. Neighbors are invited to bring dishes to share (suggested category based on last name). Sponsors include Breedlove Radiator and Zora Medor’s Good, Green, Fun Fair (a BSN grant).

5.) Community Development: Betsey Baun reviewed the Strategic Plan for goals that could be funded by the city’s **Small Projects Program or BSN grants**. She found that some of the goals of the Strategic Plan have already been met, such as planting of trees which the NeighborWoods grant made possible in 2008. The plan highlights branding opportunities, so Ms. Baun presented a draft proposal for a Small Project Program grant to install **28 sign toppers over existing street signs** with the locally recognized name of Aycock. This suggestion has been made on numerous occasions and is supported by HCD staff, but there is inconsistent naming between the state historic register record (which refers to the Charles B. Aycock Historic District) and the national historic register (which designates the area as Summit Ave Historic District). The name Charles B. Aycock does not resonant well with some previous and current board members, although the district was named after Aycock Middle School and not after the governor. A compromise of using the name “Aycock Historic District” (and dropping “Charles B.”) was offered. A vote to proceed with a grant application passed 6-1 with Christina Cantrell in dissent. Bert VanderVeen raised a concern that the board has submitted Small Project Program grants on several occasions but has never been awarded a grant.

Action Item for Bert VanderVeen and Betsey Baun - Meet with Russ Clegg to ensure that the Small Projects Program submission is properly filled out.

6.) Community Watch: Sara Farnsworth was not able to attend. No report.

7.) COAs: None this month.

8.) Newsletter: Linda Fusco distributed a delivery schedule for the fall newsletter. The newsletters will be **available for delivery on Friday, Sept 30** and Ms. Fusco requested that all delivery be completed by the start of the Pecan Festival on

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Saturday afternoon. Ms. Fusco reported that Juliet Luce and Sara Farnsworth have been invaluable in assisting with the newsletter. She is especially pleased with the number of advertisements this quarter.

9.) Website: Shawn Wriede provided a recap of completed and pending updates to the website:

- a. Photos from NNO
- b. A new events page
- c. A map of neighborhood with the historic district boundaries
- d. A new link to the by-laws to locate them more easily
- e. Kid's page
- f. Add a search feature (if possible)
- g. Research whether adding a auto-signature with the website URL is possible
- h. Create a "terms and conditions" or "guidelines" agreement
- i. A new donation page invoking PayPal

10.) Welcoming Committee: Cathy Scott reported she had a **welcome basket ready for Niki Lefaive at 780 Chestnut St.** Ms. Scott procured free passes to the Children's Museum for the baskets and coupons for a day care in Fisher Park.

11.) Old Business:

- a. **Big Sweep:** Linda Fusco reported that residents Shawn Wriede, Khalil Perilstein, David Wharton, Rebecca Fagg, and Bob Coltun met at her house on Saturday, Sept 17 along with 11 members of **Melody Rose's Girl Scout Troop #1714**. All streets in the neighborhood were cleaned, except Percy St. since there were insufficient volunteers. In addition, Mr. Wharton and Ms. Fagg cleaned up the Leftwich tunnel. Ms. Fusco is providing thank-you certificates to the Girl Scouts to help them acquire badges. Mr. Wharton also raised the idea of a permanent trashcan at the tunnel (on the Summit Ave side). The board approved this action.

Action Item for David Wharton - Request permanent trashcan at Leftwich Tunnel to be maintained by the city. Leo Cheek of the city is the contact.

- b. **War Memorial Stadium:** Betsey Baun had no update, but plans to petition City Council to re-evaluate the original plans for the stadium (a mixed use facility) rather than a possible baseball field for NC A&T. After discussion, it was felt that no action would be taken by any council member until after November elections.

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- c. **Fall Planting:** Dunlap is prepared to plant 5 flats of annuals @ \$45.00 per flat in the Yanceyville median around Oct 15. They will invoice the city and the amount will be paid from MSD funds. Stefan-leih Geary has already approved the request.
- d. **Vacant House Zoning:** Resident Jacynthia Mitchell asked the board to review the zoning for a house on Percy St that is for sale and has been vacant for over a year. It is currently configured as a duplex. However, since it has been vacant for over a year, the zoning should revert back to its original R-5 designation (single family). David Wharton agreed to review the issue with the city.

Action Item for David Wharton - Request zoning status on house for sale at 720 Percy St.

- e. **Aycock Middle School fence repair:** Prior to Laura Wall leaving for London, she arranged for Quality Fence Builders to repair the decorative fence around Aycock Middle School which was damaged recently. The invoice is for \$1,327.16. A motion was made and approved unanimously to use MSD funds to repair the fence.

Action Item for Christina Cantrell - Send authorization to Stefan-leih Geary to pay Quality Fence Builders from MSD funds.

Action Item for Christina Cantrell - Locate correct contact to reiterate that further repairs to the fence are the responsibility of the school district and not the neighborhood.

- f. **Aycock delegates to GNC:** Authorized delegates are required for the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress. **Christina Cantrell** volunteered to continue as the **primary delegate** for the monthly meetings. **Bert VanderVeen** and **David Wharton** volunteered as **alternate delegates**.

Action Item for Christina Cantrell - Send revised delegate information to Peter Kauber of the Membership Committee of the GNC.

12.) New Business:

- a. Betsey Baun inquired about **the resurfacing of Yanceyville St.**; the work appears to stop at the edge of the neighborhood. Ms. Baun volunteered to prepare a letter to GDOT (with Aycock letterhead) requesting the resurfacing schedule; many of the side streets are badly in need of resurfacing. On a related subject, Cathy Scott inquired about the GTA bus stop at the corner of

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Yanceyville St. and Fifth Ave and whether that can be moved.

Action Item for Betsey Baun - Request resurfacing schedule from GDOT.

Action Item for Cathy Scott - Request possibility of changing a bus stop location from GTA.

- b. Betsey Baun raised the need to **increase general funds** by using donations along the lines of a membership drive. She stated that full board participation is viewed favorably when applying for grants. David Wharton agreed with Ms. Baun's assessment that full board participation is significant. Ms. Baun **requested that all board members donate a comfortable amount prior to the next board meeting.** Christina Cantrell reminded everyone that donations to a non-profit are tax-deductible and she will prepare a letter indicating a donation.
- c. **Future fund-raisers** were discussed. The **chili cook-off in conjunction with the Greensboro Beautiful Wreath Sale** at the Farmer's Market provided a profit for several years. Christina Cantrell volunteered to contact Lynne Leonard. The **luminaries** also are a profit-maker every year. No one volunteered to lead this effort at the meeting.

Action Item for Christina Cantrell - Contact Lynne Leonard at the Farmer's Market about possibility of selling chili at the Greensboro Beautiful Wreath Sale.

- d. The **car lot at 351 Summit Ave** seems to have a lot of activity at night and appears to have a number of vehicles that are not drivable. The board discussed options such as calling the police, but finally determined that contacting the City Inspections Department might be more effective.

Action Item for David Wharton - Write letter to Inspection Department asking them to review the business at 351 Summit Ave for violations.

13.) Meeting Adjourned: 8:06 pm.