

**Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association**  
**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**  
February 25, 2013

**Present:** Linda Fusco, Mindy Zachary, Shawn Wriede, Christina Cantrell, Jon Mitchell, Sara Farnsworth, Joe Kilpatrick (alternate)

**Absent:** David Wharton, Khalil Perilstein, Bert VanderVeen, Betsey Baun

**Guests:** Officer Larry Patterson of GPD, resident Zora Meador

**The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Monday, February 25, 2013 at 706 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Linda Fusco. Secretary Sara Farnsworth was in attendance to take the minutes.**

- 1. Community Resource Officer Report:** Officer Larry Patterson told the board that Officer Campbell will be on a different assignment for 6 months, with he and others filling in for Officer Campbell's role as CRO during that time

Officer Patterson advised the board that the GPD will be rolling out new crime mapping software in the next month, with officers undergoing training in the coming week. As he understands it, the software will allow citizens to be able to plot boundaries or specify addresses to see crime activity in particular areas. This will apparently make it easier for us to see all criminal activity occurring only within our neighborhood's borders. He also described changes that will occur in the way crime is reported at meetings like ours, including reporting crime statistics for the entire district and offering comparisons between current and previous years.

Officer Patterson reported the following **police incidents in our area** in the past month: A vehicular hit and run; false identity (using a checkbook lost about six months ago); a reported burglary at 604 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. with laptop taken; a couple of student-related incidents at Aycock Middle School; some scrap metal items taken from the yard at 515 Charter Place; Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> burglary of copper piping at vacant house at 600 Summit Ave. (apparently recently purchased by an investment company); and a couple of drug possession charges in the area.

Jon Mitchell reported to Officer Patterson that a homeless encampment has again been re-established in the Murrow Blvd. cloverleaf in the cedar trees on city property. It has been cleaned out at least twice and keeps being re-established. Board members would like to find a more permanent solution.

- 2. Secretary's Report: Minutes from the January 28, 2013 board meeting** were reviewed and unanimously approved. **ACTION ITEM** for Shawn Wriede: **Post approved January minutes to website.**
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Christina Cantrell distributed the Monthly Treasury Report, which shows a balance of \$7,241.67 with \$4,030.52 in the General Fund and the rest in escrow

accounts. Expenditures were made for the purchase of a voice recorder for meetings, for web hosting, and for new business checks. Banking has been moved to a Wells Fargo account. We're waiting for the last statement to be received from First Citizens showing zero balance (for our records) before the old account is closed. **ACTION ITEM for Christina Cantrell: Close old bank account after last statement is received.**

4. **Community Development:** Betsey Baun was absent. Linda Fusco reported on the Yanceyville/Bessemer neighborhood sign project status. The progress seems to have been stalled with the city right-of-way department where city employee James Steber is new in his job. There may have been some confusion because the sign is not actually in the right-of-way. Stefan-leih Geary set up a meeting with James and got the project going again. Stefan-leih and James will be handling the bidding process, which had not been done. Stefan-leih has submitted the COA application. The project seems to be back on track now.

5. **Community Watch:** Joe Kilpatrick reported on Community Watch and sought ideas for implementing a Community Watch program. Jon Mitchell reported that there is a tenant living near Sternberger Park who frequently lets his aggressive dog off-leash in the park. Joe intends to attempt to talk to the dog owner. **ACTION ITEM for Joe Kilpatrick: Attempt to make contact with off-leash dog owner about leash laws in the city park.** Board members discussed the status of homeless encampments at Dunleith (which is private property and is up to the property owners) and the Murrow cloverleaf (on city property, which the police have and will clear out).

Joe solicited ideas from attendees for the role that a community watch chair might have. Ideas discussed ranged from an actual organized "watch" system with block captains, etc. to emails and newsletter articles on safety tips. Board members noted that neighborhood crime seems to be concentrated in the heavily renter-occupied areas.

6. **Historic Preservation (COA):** Linda Fusco reported that there is one COA this month.

- a) **COA Application #1617, SE Corner Yanceyville Street and Bessemer Avenue.** City employees Stefan-leih Geary and James Steber filed the COA on behalf of the Board for the planned neighborhood entryway sign funded by the 2011 Neighborhood Small Project grant. **The board voted unanimously to support the COA, with current Historic Preservation Commission members abstaining or absent.**

7. **Newsletter:** Nothing to report.

8. **Technology:** Shawn Wriede reported that web hosting fees have been paid for the year. **ACTION ITEM for Shawn Wriede: Resolve issues with Jon's email address.**

9. **Welcoming Committee:** Linda Fusco made up a basket for the three young women who have moved into the home on Park Avenue owned by Mindy Zachary's brother. Board members signed a card for them.

**10. Alleyway Issues:** Mindy reported that we are still waiting for Stefan-leih Geary to meet with the city's legal department to get a determination on whether MSD funds can be used for alleyway improvements.

**11. Special Projects:**

a) **War Memorial Stadium:** Mindy Zachary clarified her statement from last month's board meeting and reported that she was not purposefully excluded from any meeting with city officials; there was just some confusion about a new scheduling system. Nasha McCray of Parks & Recreation continues to be excellent to work with and seems to understand our neighborhood's priorities of historic preservation and continued active use of the stadium. According to Nasha's communications with Mindy, City Council has authorized moving forward with a global planning process to include the city, A&T, Farmers Market, Aycock and other neighbors, and BWC Consulting (economic development consultants). City Historic Preservation staff are applying for a Certified Local Government grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to fund a Historic Structure Report which would enhance the previously-completed engineering analysis and also address management for the use of the property. The Historic Structure Report would outline a scope of recommended work on the structure with appropriate and historically sensitive renovation strategies. BWC Consulting is performing an economic development analysis, studying the area surrounding the stadium (29-Market St-Yanceyville-Summit) to determine appropriate sustainable and viable re-uses for the stadium. Their preliminary findings report will be completed by the first week of March. Then the project team will meet and discuss the report, ideas for branding and marketing the new district (study area), and obtain an update on the status of the grant application. After this takes place, members of the project team would like to come to an Aycock board meeting to present their findings. Mindy reported that A&T is interested in having formal ownership of the stadium transferred from the city to the university, but that city officials would wait and see the results of these studies and hear what A&T has to say about their plans first. A&T has posted their 2020 plan available online that involves maintaining the structure's use as an athletic stadium and incorporating it into their plans for a surrounding International Village. **ACTION ITEM for Mindy Zachary: Facilitate having War Memorial Stadium project representatives attend an upcoming board meeting.**

**12. Old Business**

**A. Pending Action Items from last meeting**

i. **ACTION ITEM for Mindy Zachary: Prepare a presentation of research on alleyway issues.** Mindy will try to get the presentation ready for the next board meeting

- ii. **Granite Curb survey project:** **ACTION ITEM for Mindy Zachary: Report granite curb repair/replacement requests to the city.** The city official that Mindy had a connection with for granite curbs is no longer in that position.
- iii. The unused **utility pole** near Yanceyville/Bessemer intersection is going to be removed, according to Linda Fusco.
- iv. **Zoning enforcement** for 720 Percy: Linda Fusco reported that according to the city, enforcement cannot proceed until the house is actually occupied.

#### 14. New Business:

- A. **City council representation/redistricting:** Jon Mitchell floated the idea of seeking city council redistricting so that Aycock would be represented by the same City Council member as Fisher Park. He will research how we might approach that.
- B. **MSD-Funded Projects for 2013 and beyond:** Linda Fusco passed out a list of some proposed projects for which we might use MSD funds and asked board members to select their top four and those on which they might be interested in working, according to Stefan-leih Geary's recommendation that we select a few MSD projects on which to focus our efforts for the coming year. Proposals included:
  - Trash receptacles at Sternberger Park and Max Thompson Bridge
  - Sign-toppers for street signs
  - Tree inventory and care of historically significant trees and of those affected by Duke Power pruning
  - Sternberger Park improvements
  - Signs at 1 or 2 other gateway locations
  - Replace globes on street lights and repaint light poles
  - Paint Leftwich tunnel
  - Alleyway research
  - Other (please specify)
- C. **Tree Inventory and Tree Management Plan:** Christina Cantrell reported that she, Linda, Stefan-Leih and Mike Cowhig from the city, and Billy Mathews of Davey Tree Service went around the neighborhood to identify areas of concern in our tree canopy, especially considering some recent aggressive trimming by Duke Power. In Billy's opinion, the trees that have been aggressively pruned are not in danger of falling apart except for those next to St. Leo's Place on Cypress, which were pruned in a V-shape rather than an L-shape. He recommended that those be removed. A huge old tree at Aycock Middle School is also an area of concern after sewer repairs, and Billy recommended extra fertilization and attention. The College Hill neighborhood is doing a tree inventory and implementing a tree management plan, and Stefan-Leih sent a blueprint document that College Hill is using that we may want to follow their blueprint. The approach would involve three parts: a tree inventory, a tree management plan, and workshops to educate residents. Neighbor Zora Meador mentioned that National Arbor Day Foundation memberships are a wonderful source for very inexpensive trees that are selected to be appropriate for our area, and we might be able

to let neighbors know about it and possibly integrate that resource into our plans. **The board voted unanimously to move forward with the Tree Inventory and Tree Management Plan implementation.**

- D. Proposed Bylaws Changes:** Board members discussed potential changes to wording in the Bylaws. One of the proposed changes involves specifying that the association shall maintain an office at the home of its registered agent, rather than having to make changes to the bylaws each time the address needs to be changed. The other major proposed edit would change the membership makeup of the board to include the immediate past President as an additional voting member of the board for a period of two years. Board members decided to put off voting to change the Bylaws until the next meeting so that neighbors (neighborhood association members) could be better informed that we will vote on the potential changes to the Bylaws. **ACTION ITEM for Linda Fusco: Email the neighborhood listserv to inform neighborhood association members of the vote to change the bylaws at next month's regular meeting.**
- E. BSN Grant 2013:** Zora Meador attended the recent Building Stronger Neighborhoods grant workshop in Glenwood, and coordinator Donna Newton thinks that our neighborhood would be eligible for another BSN grant for 2013. The BSN grant program is unique to Greensboro, is sponsored by the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and other entities, has been going on for 10 years, and is open to all neighborhood groups to apply. Often the funding available each year does not get fully utilized because of lack of applicants. Zora's idea for a theme for the grant would be "Remake Your World Well" and would focus on sponsoring events and workshops on healthy and sustainable living as part of existing neighborhood-related events and festivals such as the Pecan Festival. Examples she gave were having presenters share their expertise on tai-chi, yoga, nutrition, solar/magnetic power, and community gardens. She shared ideas for integrating our neighborhood events with those in the greater community, events getting children involved, etc. Zora plans on writing up the grant proposal and submitting it this week, and she should know the result within three weeks to a month after that.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:17 pm**