

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
October 29, 2012

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

Absent: David Wharton, Khalil Perilstein, Jamie Barnett, Bert VanderVeen, Betsey Baun, Jon Mitchell (alternate)

Guests: Officer Douglas E. Campbell, Khali Gallman of NC Housing Finance Agency, Pam Grigsby, John Mandrano

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Monday, October 29, 2012 at St. Leo's Place Community Room. Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by President Linda Fusco. Secretary Sara Farnsworth was in attendance to take the minutes.

- 1. New Alternate Board Member:** Linda Fusco reported that Leona Schweins has moved from the neighborhood, vacating her position as an alternate board member. The board **voted unanimously to appoint Joe Kilpatrick to fill the vacancy as an alternate board member.**
- 2. Community Resource Officer Report:** Officer Doug Campbell distributed information from the Red Cross about disaster readiness and GPD bicycle registration forms.

The following **police incidents were reported between September 24 and October 29, 2012:** Oct. 12 – Public Accident – Homeless individual injured when struck by a train on the tracks between Chestnut St. and Church St., as reported by the media. Oct. 4 – Theft of automobile accessories (front brakes) from a car at Bill Black dealership, 601 E. Bessemer. Oct. 12 – Leaf blower stolen from truck belonging to lawn care company parked at Arby's at 1001 Summit. Six police incidents were recorded involving students at Aycock Middle School, 811 Cypress, involving student fighting, etc. Board members inquired about the incidents, and Officer Campbell explained the different approaches to handling violations at school, either via the school's administration, via the police (primarily School Resource Officer Mindy Hunt), or both, with varying levels of coordination and reporting. Aycock Middle School's new principal is scheduled to be a guest at the next monthly board meeting, and the board members will have the opportunity then to ask about the current approach to crimes/violations at the school.

Officer Campbell asked about a request he'd received from Michele Forrest of the Streetwatch organization which liaisons with the city's homeless population. It has been understood that the neighborhood prefers that individuals accessing the homeless encampment on the Dunleith property (between Chestnut St. and the railroad tracks) refrain from wandering the streets of the neighborhood as much as possible, so that they instead access the area via the railroad tracks/Church St. side. Streetwatch inquired whether the neighborhood would support their organization's members accessing the encampment from

Chestnut Street instead because of safety concerns with crossing the railroad tracks. Officer Campbell estimated the number of individuals on the Dunleith property to now number about 30. Board discussion emphasized that the encampment is on private property and that it would be inappropriate for the board to move to support the request for access via private property. No motion was put forth.

Linda Fusco relayed to Officer Campbell the comments of alternate board member Jon Mitchell (absent) about **increased community safety concerns at Sternberger Park**, including an incident of violence (a fight preceding the Pecan Festival), individuals sleeping on park benches, and condoms, condom wrappers, and a pair of pants found on the playground. Board members discussed possible solutions, including motion-sensitive lighting or motion-sensitive Flashcams being positioned at the park. Officer Campbell had previously been pursuing having Parks & Recreation position a Flashcam at the Leftwich tunnel, but there were reasons why the Flashcam device would not be ideally suited to the tunnel location. **Board members expressed a preference for pursuing Flashcam placement at Sternberger Park** over the Leftwich tunnel.

Officer Campbell reported that he had followed up with GDOT official Noland Tipton about the **No Loitering signs** that had been removed from the **Leftwich pedestrian tunnel** within a couple of weeks of their being posted. The city is reticent to replace the metal signs only to have them stolen again. Board members expressed a preference to simply have the “No Loitering” text painted on rather than on a removable sign. Doug Campbell plans to follow up with the city.

Linda Fusco reported that she researched the **zoning status of the Summit Executive Center** at 817 Summit Ave., which has long been a source of continuing disturbances and police incidents. According to her research, the Center’s use as single-room occupancy is compatible with its Office zoning. Board members indicated that it seemed not worth pursuing this avenue (zoning violations) further, based on the findings. Officer Campbell encouraged the board to come up with a goal for an alternative use for the property.

- 3. Special Speaker: Khali Gallman of NC Housing Finance Agency** spoke about the NC Foreclosure Prevention Fund. The program is federally-funded and was started in 2010 using TARP funds distributed to states with the highest unemployment rates. It is meant to provide temporary assistance in paying a mortgage for individuals experiencing financial hardship through no fault of their own (e.g. job loss, reduced earnings, divorce, serious illness, or death of a co-signor). The program provides up to \$36,000 towards mortgage payment expenses for up to 3 years in the form of a deferred-payment no-interest loan which is forgiven if the recipient stays in the home for 10 years. Recipients do not have to be behind in their payments before receiving assistance; the program aims to help people before they deplete their retirement savings, etc. Its goal is foreclosure *prevention* – to help homeowners before they enter the foreclosure process. Ms. Gallman is employed full-time in getting the word out about this program, since many eligible individuals may not know it’s available. Allocated funds for the program are expected to be depleted in 2014. The board expressed interest in informing neighborhood residents about the program, given that residents have expressed concerns about property values via the listserv recently and that foreclosures negatively impact property values for the surrounding neighborhood. Ms.

Gallman left copies of a printed flier and will send information for distribution in electronic format to Linda. **ACTION ITEM for Linda Fusco: Send out NC Foreclosure Prevention information to neighbors via the Listserv and insert flier into the next newsletter.**

4. **Minutes/Secretary's report:** Minutes from the September 24, 2012 board meeting were reviewed and approved. **ACTION ITEM for Shawn Wriede: Post minutes of September board meeting to website.**

5. **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Christina Cantrell distributed the Treasury report, which shows a balance of \$6,779.03 with \$3,567.88 in the General Fund and the rest in escrow accounts. Donations totaling \$303.32 were received in the past month as a result of the annual fund drive and at the Pecan festival.

ACTION ITEM for Christina Cantrell (continued from last month): Research banking alternatives.

ACTION ITEM for Christina Cantrell/Linda Fusco: Re-invoice John Redmond for his newsletter ad.

6. **Community Development:** Betsey Baun was absent. Committee member Mindy Zachary reported that plans for the neighborhood sign (funded by a Neighborhood Small Project Program grant) appear to be moving forward. Blueprints have been located and plans have been made by city officials including Russ Clegg. Mindy reported that city officials suggested using MSD funds for landscaping around the sign. Board members expressed their desire to wait until the sign was put in place before considering landscaping around it.

7. **Historic Preservation (COA):** Linda Fusco reported that no updates or new applications had been received for pending neighborhood COAs filed after-the-fact which were granted continuances, so no discussion took place.

8. **Newsletter:** No report this month.

9. **Technology:** Shawn Wriede reported that a Facebook page for the neighborhood is now back up and we are able to administer it. It will serve as an ideal means of notifying residents of upcoming neighborhood events. **ACTION ITEM for Betsey Baun: Supply name/address of person on her street needing welcome basket.**

10. **Welcoming Committee:** Jamie Barnett was not in attendance and no report was given. Linda Fusco volunteered to take over duties for the Welcoming committee. **ACTION ITEM for Bert VanderVeen: Send Pecan Festival photos to Shawn Wriede for posting on Facebook.**

11. **Alleyway Issues:** Mindy Zachary found that she was unable to get a quote for pipe/drain repair work in the alleyway behind Summit Ave., because the project has to be engineered first. She reported that the city is willing to draw up the plans and we'll then be able to get the quote.

12. Special Projects: Mindy Zachary reported that she contacted Chris Wilson, interim director of Parks & Recreation, about War Memorial Stadium. Chris Wilson put her on a committee and added her to an online group about the stadium to be included in meetings and receive updates.

13. Old Business

A. Pending Action Items from last meeting

- i. Identify street sections where granite curbs are missing:** Khalil Perilstein was not in attendance. Still pending. **ACTION ITEM for Khalil Perilstein - Catalog which curbs need granite replacement/repair and contact city official Dwight Murphy about it.**
- ii. Trash cans at the Max Thompson bridge:** Christina Cantrell reported that Stefan-leih Geary said we can use MSD funds to purchase trash cans to be located at the Max Thompson bridge site, and that the city will empty them. Board members discussed other potential sites for trash cans, which can be purchased using MSD funds as long as they are on city property. Sternberger Park was mentioned as a possible location (replacing the less-appealing existing garbage can).

B. Pecan Festival Wrap-up: Christina Cantrell reported that this year's Pecan Festival was not intended to make a profit but did end up being a source of donations because of a number of factors, including giving away pumpkins/straw bale decorations afterwards for requested donations, saving supplies from last year, emailed requests for donations, and drinks/ice donated by Breedlove Radiator. **ACTION ITEM for Christina Cantrell – Email Pecan Festival profit/loss statement to board members.**

C. Little Free Library Installation: Linda Fusco reported that the Little Free Library has been received and is ready to go, but help is needed to install it in Sternberger Park. Linda Fusco and Sara Farnsworth volunteered their husbands to the cause. **ACTION ITEM for Bob Coltun and Walt Bilous – Install the Little Free Library in Sternberger Park.**

D. Chili Cook-Off: Vendors at the Greensboro Beautiful wreath pick-up day at the Farmers Curb Market are required to be there all day on Nov. 29, from 8am to 6pm, and Christina plans to be there. Since chili would not be a big seller in the morning hours, Christina plans to check with Lynne Leonard about whether it would be acceptable for us to sell other types of foods/beverages that would be more appropriate for the morning. Joe Kilpatrick has connections with Krispy Kreme and may be able to procure donated donuts and coffee from them. **ACTION ITEM for Christina Cantrell – Inquire with Lynne Leonard about selling products other than chili at the Farmers Market, and let Joe know. ACTION ITEM for Joe Kilpatrick – Inquire about arranging donated donuts/coffee from Krispy Kreme if Christina gets the go-ahead from Lynne.**

- E. **Luminarias:** Jon Mitchell is in charge and was not in attendance. Bert VanderVeen and Joe Kilpatrick have volunteered to assist with the project. Board members decided that we'd use the same pricing from last year and reiterated that we would not offer invoiced sales, but only payment up-front. Mindy Zachary brought up various means by which we might seek better coverage of sections of the street, including approaching businesses on Summit to purchase luminarias if we put them out.

14. New Business:

- A. **Homeless Encampment on Dunleith Property** - Board members expressed concerns about the apparently growing size of the homeless encampment on the Dunleith property between Chestnut Street and the railroad tracks. Since the property is privately owned, it is the property owner's prerogative to address the situation. Board members agreed that we should write a letter to the property owners about the situation. **ACTION ITEM for Christina Cantrell – Draft a letter to Mr. Daskalakis addressing the neighborhood's concerns about the homeless encampment on the Dunleith property.**
- B. **Performing Arts Center** – Mindy Zachary brought up the proposed downtown Performing Arts Center. She and Christina Cantrell attended a planning charette for the project. Of particular interest to our neighborhood is the location of the PAC; board members have expressed preference for the proposed Bellemeade/Summit Ave. location. PAC representatives have offered to speak to interested groups. A guest speaker has already been scheduled for the next board meeting (Aycock Middle School's principal), so it was proposed that we invite a PAC representative to speak at the January meeting. **ACTION ITEM for Mindy Zachary – Send email to Linda giving name and contact information for special speaker at January's meeting.**
- C. **Litter in Sternberger Park** – Resident Pam Grigsby expressed concern about litter in Sternberger Park, as she knows some neighborhood residents who take it upon themselves to clean up trash in the park. Board members confirmed that city personnel do clean up litter in the park on a weekly basis.
- D. **Street Cleaning** – Mindy Zachary and other board members expressed dismay about the fact that street cleaning trucks, which in the past cleaned streets on a regularly scheduled basis, now clean sporadically and with no warning so that residents can move vehicles in advance. Board members expressed dismay that tax money is being wasted running the trucks down the middle of streets rather than along the curbs because cars are parked alongside the street. **ACTION ITEM for Mindy Zachary – Contact city regarding street cleaning schedule.**

Meeting Adjourned: 8:17 pm