

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
for
February 19, 2006

Present: Betsey Baun, Mebane Ham, Tracy Lamothe, John Mandrano, Mindy McReynolds, Miki Moore, and Jacynthia Mitchell.
Absent: Ritch Chapman, Maliq Culbreath (alternate), Steve Ruzicka, and Dave Wharton.
Guests: Bob McReynolds, Capt. Oakes, Officer Gardner, and Mark Zachary.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by Board President, Betsey Baun.

I. MINUTES

Minutes for the January meeting were approved with one correction regarding the actual wording for the plaque renaming the Hendrix St. Bridge in honor of Max Thompson.

II. COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Capt. Mike Oates (Central Division)

Betsey Baun introduced Captain Oates. He had been running the Maple Street programs that she had attended. He explained that he was there to speak about some of the items appearing recently in the news, and specifically to reassure the neighborhood that all systems are as protected as they were five years ago. Officers in the field are committed, and we should be assured they are responding as usual.

- Chief Wray – It had come as no surprise to many department members that Chief Wray would be losing his job, whether he resigned or was to be terminated. The Chief had mixed support within the department, and overall morale seems to have increased following his resignation. Assistant Chief of Police Bellamy is now the Interim Chief of Police with full authority and has not changed some of Wray's unpopular policies as he feels the new Chief should make those decisions. There are internal investigations still going on, including a financial audit. The FBI is in house doing an investigation. As far as Capt. Oakes is concerned, Chief Wray exhibited no racist tendencies. There may have been some lapses in training and standards, but with 550 sworn and 200 non-sworn personnel, and sometimes mistakes are made. Some feelings are hurt.
- Rise in Crime – There was a news article today citing the increase in Greensboro burglaries. Capt. Oakes reported that this is true, as it is for High Point and Winston-Salem. There are no known organized burglary rings in Greensboro, but rather these are 'crimes of opportunity.' County crime is decreasing, and although Capt. Oakes explained to the reporter that he feels there is a direct correlation between Greensboro's aggressive annexation policy and the shrinking size of county crime, that information was not reported.
- Downtown – Capt. Oakes reported that he needs 32 additional patrol officers, 2 more detectives, and 5 more officers for downtown, and this is just for Central. Some of the increase in late night criminal activity downtown may be attributed to the Skybar with its large history of fights, drug use, and even a rape. The department has begun nuisance abatement proceedings against the club, which has been sold by its original owner. There are two more clubs opening soon. One is a '70s dance club with a 400-seat capacity to open in the Kress Building, and 7 more restaurants and 1000 residential units are coming fairly soon. In five years downtown will be completely different than it is now. The cost of adding just the five downtown officers needed now is \$345,000.
- Crime Stats – Capt. Oakes also reported he has the capability of pulling a specific neighborhood's crime statistics to compare to other parts of the city, which the board enthusiastically requested.

Officer Greg Gardner

- TIPS – Greg reported that in the news article there were some good tips listed about how to prevent crime. Mindy volunteered to transcribe them to put out on the listserv and in the newsletter. Capt. Oakes suggested we wait for the crime stats so that both pieces of information may be presented together.
- Chestnut Street and Park Avenue Call Reports – Greg shared two 90-day printouts of call reports for these two streets and reviewed them with the board. There was nothing extraordinary about either.

- 701 Chestnut St. – A letter has been composed to Wrenn-Zealy Properties and signed by most board members regarding the concerns the Charests reported last month.

III. OFFICERS' REPORTS

President's Report – Betsey Baun

- War Memorial Stadium – It appears the City Park/Market/Stadium concept is going forward. In order for the stadium to maintain its historic designation it must retain its 'J' shape, although not all the seating must remain. Betsey offered to e-mail schematics to any board member interested. There will not be a WMS presentation made next Sunday at the potluck.
- Max Thompson Dedication – Betsey and Mebane are organizing this event for April or May (specifically *not* May 7th), with the timing to correspond to a recent visit from New Garden Landscaping, and the Mayor's availability. The memorial will be located on the Church Street side of the Hendrix St. Bridge.
- Preservation Greensboro, Inc. Nominations – Betsey reported that she has submitted the 'Coffee on Summit' location as our nomination for PGI's annual preservation award. The board discussed adding another nomination but decided that due to timing, others should be held over until next year.
- Lampposts – Betsey was unaware of this issue's status since Dave was not in attendance.
- Committee Help – Betsey remained concerned that the Beautification Committee is lacking leadership. Jacynthia has spoken to Laura Wall about resuming her former role, as she has not heard back from Brad DeHart.

Vice-President's Report – Tracy Lamothe

- Winter Potluck – Tracy said that fliers began being distributed today and that she is ready for the event at Aycock Middle School on February 26th at 5:00 p.m., but will need some assistance setting up (Mindy volunteered to help).

Treasurer's Report – Jacynthia Mitchell

- Financial Report – No changes to report.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification – Ritch Chapman (absent)

No report.

Code/Zoning Enforcement – Dave Wharton (absent)

- 111 Cypress – Mebane reported that there now has to be a warrant issued for the owner in order to get a response.
- 117 Yanceyville – Betsey reported that this house has had a home inspection as there had been an offer made. The inspection revealed severe problems with a main floor joist that has nearly rotted. She will check with a neighborhood realtor to see what happens next.
- 512 Charter – Tracy reported that the house at 513 Charter has missed at least two opportunities to be sold because of the mess across the street at 512 Charter. Mebane will talk to her City contact to see what can be done about this situation, and Mindy suggested Dave Wharton bring the board up to date at next month.

Community Watch – John Mandrano

No report.

Design Review Committee and Historic Preservation Commission – Mindy McReynolds

DRC – Mindy shared the comments John Linn made regarding the shingles product Mark Zachary is requesting to use on his property at 515 Park Avenue. His specific concerns were all addressed in the COA application.

Newsletter/Website – Dave Wharton (absent)

No report.

Neighborhood Congress (www.gnc-nc.org) – Dave Wharton (absent)

No report.

Public Relations – Jacynthia Mitchell

- PR Planning - Jacynthia again stressed the need to create an action plan for the community, and a clearer concept of who is responsible for what. She will be contacting all committee chairs soon.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- CDC – Mindy brought up the Community Development Corporation concept again as one of the key issues of our neighborhood's strategic plan, and that we need to begin looking at forming one to take some of the pressure off our overworked volunteers.

VI. COA APPLICATION REVIEW

- 515 Park Avenue – The Board voted unanimously and enthusiastically to support Mark Zachary's request to replace his original wood shingle siding with a new wood shingle panel product at Wednesday's HPC meeting.

Next Board Meeting: March 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at St. Leo's Place.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 p.m.