

Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Date: October 26, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held Monday, October 26, 2015 at St. Leos's Place. Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by president David Horth.

Board Members Present: Brian Gilles, David Horth, David Wharton, Erin Kennedy, Mindy Zachary, Raleigh Stout, Shawn Wriede.

Board Members Absent: Alternate Bob Coltun, alternate Mark Walter, Anne-Marie Earl, Lynne Leonard, past president Linda Fusco.

Others Present: None

Minutes/Secretary's Report: Minutes from the September meeting were distributed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Net income from January through September 2015 is -\$606.12. Total assets are \$6,600.56. Mindy Zachary made available bank statements and reconciliations on paper record for the board's reference. She stated that in our Paypal account there is \$11.92 at the end of September. She also explained that about \$1,000 in assets remain designated for the Dunleith Garden, and noted about \$12.00 lost to fees collected for electronic transfers. Ms. Zachary also reported one contribution and noted that electronic transfers result in fees lowering the amount received. She stated that prefers other methods of payment that do not incur processing fees, such as cash and checks. Mindy Zachary also noted one email list server support expense, to which David Horth and Shawn Wriede gave more detail about privacy concerns and notification of access to areas on the web site.

In response to questions by David Horth about expenses and funds, Mindy Zachary and Shawn Wriede gave details and examples. These include about \$5,600 being available to use, about the annual luminaries being the strongest fundraiser, and that the biggest typical expense in the past had been the newsletter. Fundraising during the Molly McGinn concert was earmarked for the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Library in consideration of its archiving of Aycock records. Neighborhood Doggi-pot station refills also incur an expense worth noting. Mindy Zachary noted a "PBIS" involving funds from luminaries being donated to a school. More typical expenses of note included gift baskets, mowing expenses coming from funds set aside for Dunleith Garden, signs for yard sales, and a \$50 contribution to the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress, and \$500 to the UNC-G Jackson Library. Mindy Zachary agreed to David Horth's idea that newsletter expenses may become important again and thus require more attention. Shawn Wriede and Mindy Zachary noted that past newsletter expenses were high in consideration of the distribution at the time. David Horth encouraged board members to contribute and donate to the treasury.

David Wharton moved to accept the treasurer's report and Shawn Wriede seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Resource Team Report: None received.

President's Report and Executive Committee: As head of the executive committee, much of the President's Report pertains to that function.

Mr. Horth presented a document with snapshot progress statements on the Aycock Strategic Plan. He encouraged those interested in the full document of the strategic plan to obtain it from the Historic Aycock web site. In separate meetings, the executive committee went through the actions on the strategic plan and about what we need to do and what is our vision for what we are trying to achieve for this year. David Horth noted that David Wharton and Mindy Zachary had reminded us to build on the existing strategic plan rather than to try and create a new one. This prompted the question of where are we with the existing strategic plan. Accordingly, David Horth wrote to City Manager Jim Westmoreland to ask the status of where we are with the Summit Corridor plan. Our inference at the time was that an engineering company had been appointed to pursue this plan, per discussions with Stefan-Leih Geary. Mr Horth did not know who is the engineering company. Brian Gilles offered to find out who was the designated engineering company.

Mr. Horth stated that he had been in communication with city staff and felt it a good idea to get Councilman Jamal T. Fox and Assistant City Manager David Parrish to attend an Executive Committee meeting in the coming weeks or possibly the next board of directors meeting. This is due to the relationship of the Summit Corridor project to so many more actions to be taken under the vision set forth in the strategic plan for Aycock, and this requires more overall coordination and planning from a holistic view at a higher level. Assistant City Manager Parrish had written back his interest in such a meeting, but he is not available until November at the earliest. Mr. Horth envisioned a meeting no earlier than about November 19th based on known schedules. Councilman Fox had also expressed interest in a meeting. David Horth noted that it may be opportune to have an entire board of directors meeting with these officials, with the meeting dedicated to conversations about the strategic plan and the Summit Corridor project.

Mr. Horth noted that the informal nature of executive committee meetings can speed up the work on planning, but that work could potentially be deferred to a full board meeting planned for December 7th. Shawn Wriede noted that we could also do a special board meeting as required on this issue. Mr. Horth encouraged everyone to think about how to proceed on that without taking any action on it during this meeting.

Mr. Horth showed how some action items on his snapshot document relate back to the first one and brought up one item of interest about speeding vehicles that resurfaced in community concerns posted on Nextdoor recently, and had been queried to GPD Officer Taylor. Another was the topic of tree canopy and inventory in our historic district that has been pursued by Linda Fusco, for which the committee covering it may be contacted soon by Stefan-Leih Geary about setting up a meeting to discuss it. Regarding the War Memorial item, Mr. Horth and made inquiries with no response yet on it from NCA&T University.

Item 7 regarding Executive Center has been referred to GPD Officer Taylor by Raleigh Stout, who also undertook an item concerning Sternberger Park planning. The City of Greensboro operates the Guilford County property of Sternberger Park, and more follow up is happening to get the Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association involved in planning for the future of Sternberger Park. David Horth requested Raleigh Stout to continue the open action regarding Sternberger Park.

Item 9 dealing with a Yard of the Month program. Shawn Wriede mentioned a similar program in the past that recognized residents for outstanding home improvement. Mr. Horth asked to defer this program until David Wharton could work out more details on criteria and for awards to be given out.

Item 10 regarding putting overhead utilities underground is currently deferred but noteworthy for future action. Raleigh Stout put together a document regarding putting utility services underground as envisioned by the strategic neighborhood plan, with the intention of making a formal proposal to the board on this issue. However, it has been deferred by the executive committee until we can connect this to more planning actions with the Summit Corridor project.

Item 11 is about neighborhood entryway markers which has actions underway. An item about Murrow Boulevard and Aycock Square is not expected to proceed.

Mr. Horth summarized the snapshot document as a way to define a vision for how we want to be seen as a board and what we want to accomplish in the coming year of service to the community. He keeps it "attached to," or organized along with the strategic plan as a way of tracking our progress regarding the plan. Shawn Wriede and David Horth noted that the strategic plan goes back to the early 2000's time period. Brian Gilles stated that in a related matter, the city has taken up the appointment of an engineering company to work projects in the areas of Yanceyville Street between Summit Avenue to the north and Lindsay Street to the south, as well as along Summit Avenue from North Murrow Boulevard up to Sullivan Street on the north. A discussion ensued about the scope of work with conjecture about re-striping and bicycle lanes and the areas to receive the work potentially expanding north of Summit Avenue onto more of Yancyville Street. David Wharton proposed following up on these concerns with the City of Greensboro to ensure that we are not unilaterally expanding the scope of the project or to compare these activities with the scope of the Summit Corridor plan to ensure better coordination. In response to further questioning by David Horth, David Wharton stated that we should be able to use the Internet and the web to learn more about the impacts on the Summit Corridor project. Mr. Horth noted an action for Brian Gilles to learn who will be the engineering companies engaged in these projects because we anticipate having conversations with them.

President Horth presented an update on how we are following up with the stormwater drainage problem and that we are communicating with David Phlegar of the City of Greensboro Water Resources Department. Mr. Phlegar expressed interest in meeting with the Executive Committee to begin work on solving the stormwater drainage problem. Mr. Horth expressed an opinion to the board that our greatest concern would be to communicate with the Women's Resource Center in order to secure its cooperation and participation in the resolution of this problem. Mindy Zachary and David Horth noted that in our discussions with the City of Greensboro, that there is a public stormwater drainage system and a private stormwater drainage system installed about 120 years ago that we will be expected to jointly consider in a hydraulic study of the neighborhood basin. There has also been discussion in the past about using Municipal Service District funds to cover a portion of the expenses incurred on this study.

Mr. Horth expressed a desire for a working board of directors meeting in which everyone gets more involved and participates further in advancing our work on issues at hand, with an emphasis on what we wish to achieve on our current year of service with the board. Mr. Horth noted no further actions to bring up at this time, and ended his President's report by opening up the floor to questions or concerns from the board of directors. Raleigh Stout requested and obtained approval from Mr. Horth to create an action item and take the lead on generating a list of questions for an upcoming hydraulic study that will affect the Aycock neighborhood.

#### Committee Reports:

Cleanup: David Horth asked about cleaning up some leftover work next to the Guilford County Schools fence. He asked for volunteers to work on that spot by Yanceyville Street and Bessemer Avenue.

Events: David Horth invited Erin Kennedy to address her ideas for board and community meetings such as the National Night Out program and annual board meetings, and possibly a winter season community event. Ms. Kennedy stated her interest and support in these ideas due to her background in events planning, with the caution that she may require help from others to handle fundraising or some arrangement tasks due to a potential conflict of interest with her current employment that relates to those areas. She also stated that she is less concerned about lead times for planning as she is with available budget and funding means to carry out event planning.

Fundraising: Nothing to report.

Governance: David Horth expressed concern about board members keeping up their attendance to meetings and our activities so that we can bring everyone to bear on the issues at hand and advance our community's interests. He is now showing David Wharton as a member of the executive committee. Mr. Horth also completed an action to reflect board member assignments and terms on a spreadsheet.

Historic Preservation: Nothing to report.

Landscaping and Signs: David Wharton addressed landscaping around the Leftwich Tunnel. He stated that Lynne Leonard and Nancy Adamson and Brian Gilles had been working with a neighbor Benjamin Berryhill who had offered some fencing for use in protecting the plantings around the tunnel from those who ride their bikes or walk through them. Mr. Berryhill had offered fencing and painting for free. The board discussed some color options that may work with the tunnel area in consideration of the vegetation and other painted features in the area like lamp posts.

David Wharton addressed the issue of the Aycock Middle School fence falling into disrepair. He called Cauley Fence Builders who said it was possible to repair sections of fencing. Mr. Wharton also learned that Guilford County Schools is no longer purchasing aluminum sections of fencing in the style installed at the Aycock School because the fencing is easily damaged and breaks down from being pulled apart by school children or being struck by mowing equipment. The fence builder estimated the cost of the aluminum fence to be on the order of \$60,000, and that a more durable steel version would have cost about \$20,000 more. Guilford County Schools has switched away from aluminum to steel fencing now and is getting more endurance from the steel fence. The estimated cost for steel fencing would be around \$35 to \$38 per foot. With regard to the current school fence, there are some sections in better condition than others. The Bessemer Avenue side of the Aycock Middle School fence was deemed to be in somewhat better shape. Both David Wharton and Mindy Zachary expressed concern for the bad appearance of the fencing in place now. David Horth asked for comments on whether this would be a worthy project for the board to consider funding as we operate as stewards for community areas and the funding that we have available. Erin Kennedy suggested funding the work over time in stages by doing major sections in different years. Mindy Zachary stated that about \$40,000 in Municipal Service District funds come available for our neighborhood each year. Shawn Wriede asked about the partnership between the Guilford County Schools and our neighborhood board of directors on funding and planning for fencing to see what more the school system can do to contribute. He recalled about three funding sources for the fencing, with our board providing about \$20,000 of the cost for the last installed fence, a grant providing another \$20,000, and Guilford County Schools providing \$20,000 for its part. David Horth proposed using the City of Greensboro Participatory Budgeting process to nominate the fence as a project for consideration in light of its policy caps at \$30,000 for projects.

Mindy Zachary spoke about landscaping progress and about coordinating with Elizabeth Link from City of Greensboro about the wall by the school and some ideas that may work for it. Of special concern is having low maintenance projects to pursue, and that the City is working on some final designs. Mindy spoke of a plan to bid out some work for installation, grading, topsoil, turning, plants, planting, and a standalone bid to collar all that with some granite curbing. This will give the board enough information to decide how much money it wants to spend. David Horth expressed concern about new laws coming into effect that will change how the City of Greensboro interacts with neighborhoods on project funding and that we may get delays on approval for Municipal Service District funding on this specific project and even others to come. He noted that we will not be able to achieve our landscaping plans any earlier than spring of 2016 despite our efforts to move earlier on them. Mindy Zachary opined that despite the concern about seasonal and timely planting for trees, there is no need to stop our movement on this landscaping initiative at this time due to the City handling the bidding process and that we can continue when a result comes in on that. David Wharton described the city council meetings and votes on consent agenda that may affect budgeting for our neighborhood.

Neighborhood Development: David Wharton stated that he had communicated with Susan Elliott about working on our newsletter and obtained her support on that. At this point, the scope of work must still be determined. Mr. Wharton proposed that the Executive Committee meet with Susan Elliott and David Horth agreed to the idea, and they decided to invite her to an upcoming executive committee session.

Mr. Wharton thanked Brian Gilles, Mindy Zachary, and Mrs. Wharton for their help with the recent street lighting assessment conducted around the neighborhood. Their work culminated in a report on the condition and history of street lighting that can be used for future maintenance and upgrades. Mr. Wharton stated that one of the facts learned in their activity was that metal poles appear to outperform fiberglass poles, despite the metal poles being about a decade older, and that a majority of installed fiberglass poles is leaning over. The survey activity included taking pictures of poles and using a level to determine how much the poles leaned in order to answer future questions about this issue. Of special concern are lighting poles installed on Chestnut Street which appear to be very skewed instead of level. Mr. Wharton also discussed an issue with globes appearing loose and some mismatched configurations of lighting on street lamps. He also noted that street lamp poles had been painted recently, and that after contacting the City of Greensboro to learn who painted them, he still has not found out. Mr. Wharton stated in summary that a majority of street lighting poles have some problem in our neighborhood - either they are leaning, or have caps missing, or have the wrong kind of globe installed for the provided original configuration, or the lights have gone out or the lights have aged beyond an easy replacement. Mr. Wharton has not yet received an answer from the City of Greensboro on the costs for replacing only the old dirt and milky globes. Mr. Wharton read to the board the recommendations they developed and discussed the reasoning behind them. He noted recommendation 4(d) involving learning the costs of replacing all globes to give a uniform appearance and identity to the entire neighborhood, and that this may give an acceptable solution to neighborhood complaints about mismatched lighting.

Shawn Wriede asked about the need to do something now with lighting in consideration of news that a switch to LED lighting by Duke Energy may be coming soon. David Horth noted that there is a tension between long term and short term solutions to our neighborhood lighting, and he felt that doing something now seemed appropriate, given that there may be a decade before new LED lights could arrive.

Mindy Zachary suggested that instead of all at once, that lighting could be replaced over years to cut costs. The discussions on lighting turned to lighting that remains on during the day and other lighting issues specific to points in the neighborhood. One example was test lighting still remaining in the neighborhood, and mismatched globes. David Wharton stated that he intended to share his detailed spreadsheet and summary of all neighborhood lighting problems with the City of Greensboro. He stated that he needed information on day-burners and Mindy Zachary offered to supply this information to him.

Technology: David Horth, Shawn Wriede, and Mindy Zachary addressed a technology upgrade expense in the Treasurer's Report for the email list server. Brian Gilles will be given access by Shawn Wriede to the web site for setting up a Twitter account. Mindy Zachary needs some support to set up a new Paypal account for the Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association. Shawn Wriede suggested ways to avoid a lapse in support from Paypal by creating a new account in advance and sharing the link data with him.

Welcoming: Nothing to report.

New Business:

David Horth called for new business items. None were presented.

Actions:

1. All board members to walk the Aycock Middle School fence to get informed on what it needs and to see it firsthand.
2. Brian Gilles to contact Stefan-Leih Geary about our actions to date with trash cans.
3. Brian Gilles to find out who is the engineering company for the Summit Avenue study.
4. David Wharton to contact Susan Eliot to launch the newsletter project.
5. David Wharton to send out to Erin Kennedy his information on the street lamp study.
6. David Wharton to update the street lighting spreadsheet.
7. Mindy Zachary to report her data on day-burner lights in the neighborhood to David Wharton.
8. Raleigh Stout to develop a list of questions to be addressed by the upcoming hydraulic study on storm water at Summit Avenue.
9. Raleigh Stout to move on Sternberger Park to get HANA into its planning process.
10. Raleigh Stout to send actions developed at the board of directors meeting to the board.
11. Raleigh Stout to add more significant dates to the meeting minutes for use by all board members to set their calendars.
12. Shawn Wriede to continue work on the site map.

Motions failed: None.

Motions passed:

1. Shawn Wriede moved to accept the meeting minutes from September, 2015. Seconded by David Wharton. Motion passed unanimously.

2. David Wharton moved to ask Duke Energy via the City of Greensboro representative:

to straighten or replace leaning street lamp poles;  
to replace all of the old globes with new milky globes;  
to replace all inappropriate (clear, polycarbonate) globes;  
to replace or repaint caps and to install new ones where missing;  
to replace or repair "day-burners," the lighting that operates in daytime unnecessarily  
and to straighten and firmly affix all fixtures and globes that are currently askew  
by referencing the streetlighting spreadsheet produced by the board of directors.

Seconded by Mindy Zachary. Motion passed unanimously.

3. David Wharton moved to accept the treasurer's report for September, 2015.  
Seconded by Shawn Wriede.

Announcements for Aycock:

2015

- 2015-12-14-MON 1830-2000 Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting. St. Leo's Place at 805 Sullivan Street.
- 2015-12-16-WED 1030-1200 City of Greensboro Urban Area Planning Organization TTC Meeting. GDOT 3rd Floor Conference Room, 301 West Washington Street.
- 2015-12-16-WED 1400-1600 City of Greensboro Urban Area Planning Organization TAC Meeting. GDOT 3rd Floor Conference Room, 301 West Washington Street.
- 2015-12-16-WED 1600 City of Greensboro Planning Board Meeting. Council Chambers at 300 West Washington Street.
- 2015-12-17-THU 1830-2030 Community Engagement with Greensboro Police Department at Glenwood Recreation Center at 2010 Coliseum Boulevard.
- 2015-12-20-SUN Alternate Rain Date for Luminarias from Dec 13
- 2015-12-21-MON 0900-1200 The filing period for the 2016 Primary will be Dec. 1, 2015 at noon through Dec. 21, 2015 at noon.
- 2015-12-25-FRI Christmas Day.

2016

- 2016-01-01-FRI New Year's Day.
- 2016-01-09-SAT 0900-1100 The Greensboro Neighborhood Congress meets in the Nussbaum Room at Greensboro Public Library Central Branch at 219 North Church Street.
- 2016-01-18-MON Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- 2016-01-20-WED 1600 City of Greensboro Planning Board Meeting. Council Chambers at 300 West Washington Street.
- 2016-01-20-WED 1830-2030 City of Greensboro Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee Meeting at GTA Administrative Offices at 223 West Meadowview Road.

- 2016-01-25-MON 1830-2000 Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting. St. Leo's Place at 805 Sullivan Street.
- 2016-01-27-WED 1030-1200 City of Greensboro Urban Area Planning Organization TTC Meeting. GDOT 3rd Floor Conference Room at 300 West Washington Street.
- 2016-01-27-WED 1400-1600 City of Greensboro Urban Area Planning Organization TAC Meeting. Council Chambers at 300 West Washington Street.
- 2016-01-27-WED 1600-1800 City of Greensboro Historic Preservation Commission Meeting. Plaza Level Conference Room at 300 West Washington Street.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Submitted by,  
Raleigh Stout