

**Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

Date: September 28, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held Monday, September 28, 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, Lynne Leonard, Mindy Zachary, Raleigh Stout, Shawn Wriede

Board Members Absent: Anne-Marie Earl, alternate Bob Coltun, past president Linda Fusco.

Others Present: Bruce Oakley, Deanna Taylor, Community Resource Team, Greensboro Police Department; alternate Mark Walter, Mebane Ham.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Net income from January through August 2015 is -\$594.17.

Total assets are \$6,612.51.

Community Resource Team Report: David Horth introduced Officer Deanna Taylor who had nothing significant to report on local crime issues. She noted that GMB Automotive lost a 6' by 9' utility trailer between closing and opening hours over a weekend. Officer Taylor stated that graffiti at Leftwich Tunnel was quickly removed, and she invited us to call upon her for any more such incidents so that she could begin processing by the City of Greensboro on them. She also advised the board to report graffiti to the nonemergency number for Greensboro Police and that we could expect about two days for processing of such complaints. Officer Taylor asked the board for its take on the recent national folk festival held downtown and about its opinions on the closings of streets and half-streets. She expressed a concern with the hazard of half-closings on streets where pedestrian traffic at the event is unaware of the change from protected lanes to those open to vehicle traffic.

Officer Taylor passed out copies of a public announcement by Greensboro Police Department about its partnering with Nextdoor social media and its availability over the web site to Aycock and other city neighborhood communities. David Horth took this opportunity to invite board members to get on Nextdoor so as to get more community information and to show the presence of Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association on this venue. Mr. Horth noted the potential to use Nextdoor as a means of organizing a community watch program. Officer Taylor stated that Greensboro Police cannot view our local community traffic and posts on Nextdoor.

Officer Taylor expressed her approval of being added to the Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association email list server, with the understanding that it may generate many emails for her to read and pick through.

Officer Taylor promoted Fix It Greensboro and the board was informed that Fix It is also a telephone app and desktop app. She invited comments from the board on its usage. Raleigh Stout gave some initial impressions by describing it as easy to learn with additional exposure to it and that a necessary report submission button remains hidden low on the page where a scroll bar must be invoked to reach it.

Officer Taylor closed her report by offering to field any questions from the board or the community at large either by email or by telephone.

President's Report: David Horth shared a paper on bullet points for his October report. He addressed strategy for the year with neighborhood development, neighborhood engagement, governance of the board of directors and of the Association, and tactical survival issues such as pending legislation that may affect the work of the Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association. He introduced Bruce Oakley for discussion of the background and history of H.B. 799 and its potential impact on historic districts if enacted.

Mr. Oakley spoke at length on how a Cross Fit facility was supposed to appear historic in character but was built very differently from what the construction was permitted for by a board in Oak Ridge. Adjustments after the permit were rejected in an effort by the local board to enforce its standards and to ensure the integrity of construction according to the permit already issued. Mr. Oakley characterized H.B. 799 as a spite bill in response to actions taken by Oak Ridge, and that it resurfaced in August 2015 when a Union County representative presented it. A provision had been added to permit applications to be removed from local historic districts, with actions such as the state preservation office giving a report to the historic preservation commission of city council with lots of politics involved. He mentioned a different and bad precedent to be set for individuals to apply for removal, to include the ability of property buyers to request a renovation report on features and materials that in effect produces a COA for the buyer at public expense.

David Horth asked about rezoning impacts on historic overlays. Mr. Oakley stated that that donut holes and swiss cheese districts under the proposed legislation would be a concern. David Horth asked for suggestions and tips for the Historic Aycock neighborhood moving forward, and Mr. Oakley replied that we must stay alert in cast the bill returns in another form. He suggested that we contact our legislators to be on the lookout for this bill. Mr. Oakley noted that historic districts have served the functional purpose of keeping sprawl in check by enforcing their local standards for change.

David Horth continued his presentation of his document for strategy for the year and gave more context and detail to the outline for his president's report. Mr. Horth exhorted the entire board of directors to join Nextdoor on the grounds that local and adjacent neighborhood message traffic can be viewed easily, and at times without logging in to Nextdoor. A question arose about how to mark neighborhoods on Nextdoor and also mentioned was the ability to form other groups on this social media platform.

David Horth extended the board of directors meeting an additional 15 minutes at 7:55 PM to take quick oral reports from committees and thus ended his president's report.

Committee Reports:

David Horth stated that he found errors in his spreadsheet for committee assignments and membership that he must update. He cited having David Wharton instead of her Mindy Zachary as lead on historic preservation committee as one example (David is our neighborhood rep).

Cleanup (Brian): Brian noted the number of people who turned out for that day. David Horth mentioned that cigarette butts are the largest polluter.

Executive Committee: David Horth scheduled an ExComm meeting for 10:00 AM on October 2, 2015 with city manager Jim Westmoreland, and a separate ExComm meeting on the same day to be held at 4:00 PM. David Horth expressed interest in discussions with the City of Greensboro regarding the use of MSD funds along with other public funds that was on the table at one time for purposes of addressing storm water drainage improvements for Aycock residents. Mindy Zachary explained more in detail about the background and history of issues about disrupted storm water drainage and backed up water for the purpose of bringing Erin Kennedy up to speed. Mindy Zachary noted that there is precedent for the City of Greensboro to place drains in and near to some private alleys.

Fundraising: Nothing to report.

Governance: David Horth expressed interest in solidifying and enacting by-laws, and the return to annual board meetings by including the community at large with some social event. There was nothing new to report for governance except to register the desire to have an annual board of directors meeting that coincides with an event, possibly to be held at Sternberger Park, and to have food trucks or covered dishes brought by participants.

Historic Preservation: David Horth presented two COA items for discussion: COA #1900 for 708 Summit Avenue and another COA for 711 Summit Avenue. Mindy Zachary expressed concern about overkill with sign-age on COA #1900 because it appears to exceed the standards for

simple sign-age. She recommended reducing details on the sign because it looks too busy.

Motion: Mindy Zachary moved to support COA #1900 on the condition that the proposed sign-age be limited in content. Brian Gilles seconded the motion which subsequently passed by majority vote.

Motion: Mindy Zachary moved to support the COA for 711 Summit Avenue as submitted and Shawn Wriede seconded the motion which subsequently passed by majority vote.

Landscaping: Lynne Leonard presented the city appointed landscape architect's design for landscaping at the intersection of Yanceyville Street and Bessemer Avenue - including new larger lettering. The city's landscape architect prescribed the need for a retaining wall to keep the landscaping and plants from washing away. Mindy Zachary stated that new trees should go in now within the next two months in preparation for the coming winter. President David Horth invited a motion to be raised for the city to begin the bidding process for the landscaping and that the motion be flexible enough so that the landscaping committee doesn't have to return to the board for every detail of the landscaping (for example, what happens if the retaining wall to be built from granite blocks turns out not the feasible). David Wharton stated his support for giving discretion to the landscaping committee.

Motion: David Wharton moved to authorize the landscaping committee to work with the city to begin the bidding process for the landscaping for the corner of Yanceyville Street and Bessemer Avenue. Brian Gilles seconded and the motion passed on majority vote.

Mebane Ham offered a short report on Sternberger House. She stated that the commission is in the process of evaluating the house, and that they are looking at current and future needs of the building and for how to fund for them. Mebane Ham expects to have more details in a future report.

Neighborhood Development: Erin Kennedy will begin to attend meetings of the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress on Thursdays at 7:00 to 9:00 PM. She stated that there may be a cancellation of GNC meetings in October due to candidate forums taking place during election season. As for the need of a steady GNC representative, David Wharton recommended dropping Esther Maltby and Matt Thomas. David Wharton volunteered to participate.

David Wharton spoke on lighting and about obtaining more lights for safety as a concern for Historic Aycock neighborhood residents. He stated that Duke Energy is obligated to maintain our lights into perpetuity as per contract with the City of Greensboro. Contractual stipulations obligate Duke Energy to replace milky white globes upon notification. The City of Greensboro does not recommend polycarbonate globes due to excessive glare. Clear polycarbonate globes can be replaced with milky globes. David Wharton continued to note that Duke Energy has no easy solution to leaning poles -- Duke Energy offers new poles with anchor bases but this would likely incur additional cost. There is a lighting fee of \$54 per month per pole. Acquisition of lamps attached to telephone poles would cost about \$1,400 per light. Sodium fixtures would cost about \$10.27 per month, while LED lights would cost about \$19 per month.

David Horth noted that Southside and College Hill neighborhoods have better lighting due to federal block grants for poorer communities.

David Wharton stated that aged, discolored, and mismatched globes, and missing caps can generally be replaced over time. Caps are considered decorative and not functionally necessary. Mention was made of a style of light called Santabel in College Hill, and David Wharton suggested that we continue discussion of leaning lights and replacements at a later time. David Horth suggested the need for a new maintenance committee, for which one duty would be to monitor repairs for lights.

Motion: David Wharton moved to remove test lighting at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Percy Street and to replace it with a milky globe with cap and sodium light. Shawn Wriede seconded. The motion passed on unanimous vote.

Technology: Shawn Wriede expressed interest in getting a Twitter social media account for the Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association. Mark Walter offered to set up such an account.

Welcoming: Anne Marie unavailable

New Business:

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

Actions 9-28-15

1. Mindy Zachary stated that she would distribute the minutes from the latest GNC meeting via email.
2. David Horth to update the spreadsheet on committee membership and assignments.
3. Mark Walter to set up a Twitter account for Historic Aycock Neighborhood Association.

Announcements for Aycock:

Upcoming 2015 Board/Neighborhood Meetings October 26 and Dec. 7.

Military Academy Day set up by Congresswoman Alma S Adams will be held at the central branch of the Greensboro Public Library on Saturday, November 7, 2015, from 10 am to 12 pm for parents and prospective students to learn about this opportunity.

NC A&T University Homecoming and Aggie FanFest will be celebrated at War Memorial Stadium on October 23, 24, and 25. Expect neighborhood barricades and street closings as early as 5:30 am Saturday but local traffic will be supported at Circle Drive, Dewey Street, Castlewood Drive, Homeland Avenue, Boyd Street, Park Avenue, and Palmetto Street.

Luminaries Sunday, December 13 (Rain date: Sunday, December 20).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Submitted by,
Raleigh Stout