

College Hill Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

7 p.m., Sept. 23, 2013

Fellowship Hall, Church of the Covenant, 501 S. Mendenhall St.

Community Watch Report – Due to schedule conflicts on the part of the College Hill representatives, there was no community watch report.

Monthly Meeting – 7 p.m.

Guests: Nancy Lenk and Karen Archia, owners of the recently opened People's Perk Coffee shop, introduced themselves and attended the meeting. Mike Cowhig and Jeff Sovich from the City of Greensboro, Councilman Zach Methany, Tim Apple of New Earth Designs, and Shelia Santor of the Greensboro Police Department also attended the meeting.

Motion to Approval Minutes: C. Sheppard motioned and L. Pawlowski seconded approval of the minutes from the August 2013 meeting with as written. Approved on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: No report. (No major changes in bank balances were anticipated.)

GUEST SPEAKERS

Shelia Santor, Greensboro Police Department, made a short presentation about the impact of false alarms from home security systems and provided tips for avoiding false alarms for residents. She distributed an informational brochure.

Councilman Zach Methany spoke briefly. He suggested that the neighborhood association will want to have future discussions about how to use MSD funds to improve the neighborhood. The neighborhood has funds that could be used to better market/identify and beautify College Hill. This would be a good follow-up to the neighborhood planning summit scheduled for October.

NEW BUSINESS

Bus Parking at Greensboro College

Several individuals who live close to Greensboro College discussed bus parking Greensboro College especially during sport events when college facilities are rented to groups. While it is understood that the college is financially challenged and motivated to rent its facilities, these rentals have resulted in buses running diesel engines all day long. James Wood said that the McGee neighbors are concerned about the fumes and noise that result from the buses. At times the street becomes a de facto bus depot. It was noted that College Place between Odell to McGee is no longer a city street since it was closed at the request of the College. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the neighborhood association should arrange a meeting with Robin Daniel, Vice President of Student Affairs and Operations at Greensboro College, and the new athletic director to enlist their cooperation to bring about improvements. The desired goal is to have a full-time policy established and enforced instead of dealing with the issue on a case-by-case basis.

COA for 619 S. Mendenhall Street

College Hill homeowner Jai Singh spoke to the group regarding his family's COA application. The Greensboro Building Department approved the Singh's building permit even though they had not obtained a COA. Mr. Singh explained that he had no knowledge of the COA process at the time he obtained a building permit. The Singh's are in the process of working with the Historic Preservation Commission to obtain a COA and enlisted the support of the neighborhood in this process. He thanked the neighborhood for its support.

Traffic Study for Spring Garden

Residents voiced concerns about traffic on Spring Garden at Fulton. The speed limit is inconsistent along Spring Garden. Councilman Zach Methany agreed to ask the City to conduct a traffic study for the area. Data will be collected over a 24 to 48 hour period that spans a Thursday and Friday. Results of the study will help the neighborhood decide if we should request traffic changes in the area.

UPDATES AND OLD BUSINESS

House at 919 Spring Garden: James Keith reported that the house at 919 Spring Garden seems to have been saved at the last hour. Preservation Greensboro exercised its option on the property. James Keith spoke at the City Council meeting on behalf of the neighborhoods request to revise the MSD charter. The neighborhood has approved up to \$50,000 in MSD funds to purchase the property. The Greensboro Planning Department is working on the legalities involved. It is hoped that once the property has a legally confirmed buyer that Greensboro Redevelopment Commission will contribute funds toward the purchase. The tentative closing date is Oct. 30, 2013.

Landscape Contract Renewal: Tim Apple of New Earth Designs discussed the landscape contract that is up for renewal. The contract will cover remedial work (to restore the landscaped areas to their original design intent) at 14 locations. The funds will maintain old and new sites and address new issues that have arisen, such as replacing plants that were guaranteed but have died. Maintenance of the McGee Street plantings is included. There may also be funds available to address other areas such as the “hell strips” (parkway/verge areas) and Springdale Park.

Motion: C. Sheppard moved and J. Wood seconded a motion to proceed with the New Earth Designs landscape contract renewal. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Neighborhood Planning Meeting: Jeff Sovich announced that the dates of the College Hill Neighborhood Planning Summit will be moved to October 21 and 26. Residents will receive a postcard notifying them of the event.

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC): The neighborhood agree to support the COA request for 619 S. Mendenhall and to reject the COA for the AT&T utility box at 114 S. Mendenhall. James Keith, Judy Horn, and Larry Horn planned to attend the September HPC meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the Church of the Covenant, 501 S. Mendenhall St. The Community Watch report will precede the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Horn, Secretary