

College Hill Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

7 p.m., Oct. 28, 2013

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

Community Watch Report – Break-ins occurred at the District building (formerly the Cascades) at 830 W. Market (which is outside of College Hill). Investigations showed that key fobs issued to residents were not working properly. The new management at the District is working with the Greensboro Police to resolve the problems.

The Provence had a burglary. A resident who had lost his key had been going in and out of the apartment via the window. A burglar must have observed this and entered the apartment through the same means to steal a computer.

There were two robberies in the area, one on Spring Garden near Mendenhall and the other on McGee at Spring Garden. One robbery was armed, one was not. Both occurred during the very early hours of the morning past midnight.

Monthly Meeting – 7 p.m.

Motion to Approval Minutes: The minutes from the September meeting were approved on a voice vote.

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

UPDATES AND OLD BUSINESS

House at 919 Spring Garden

The new owner closes on the house on Oct. 30. The buyer's name has not yet been revealed. The buyer intends to restore the original footprint of the house. The 1940 addition will not be restored. James Keith has a copy of all church communications regarding the sale of the home and that nearly all of them favored keeping the house and preventing demolition.

Neighborhood Planning Summit

Saturday's planning summit meeting did not cover as many topics as the Monday evening meeting. Some new issues have been added to the planning document as well as additional goals. The CHNA should plan to go through the planning document at the December meeting and draft a neighborhood response.

NEW BUSINESS

Promoting./Marketing College Hill

Joe Wheby suggested the CHNA work to promote the geographic advantages of College Hill. We are a walkable neighborhood, close to downtown, restaurants, arts and culture. The group also discussed noted that College Hill is bike friendly. However, some residents felt that some gateways to the downtown area do not feel safe, especially the underpass at Spring Garden.

The College Hill website and a brochure could be used to promote College Hill's strengths. Ideas suggested for a brochure were to list: the Top 20 Things residents love about living in College Hill as well as marketable features such as walkability, historic character, and a location close to UNCG, Greensboro College, and downtown. We also need better communications with residents so they know basic rules, such as trash regulations. It was suggested that we reach out to Realtors with an informative brochure about College Hill.

Duke Energy

It was announced that there will be an informational meeting regarding vegetation Maintenance within the College Hill Historic District from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 13 at the Glenwood Recreation Center.

The large number of burnt out or downed street lights was also discussed.

Sex Offender Notification

Recently a registered sex offender who had moved into the College Hill neighborhood had to relocate because the residence he had chosen was too close to a childcare facility. It was noted that the neighborhood should inform rental/leasing agents of the facts regarding sex offender residences. College Hill is close to several daycare facilities making it largely off limits for sex offenders.

Cameras in College Hill

Chris Wilson, director of the Parks Department, spoke about the use of flash cameras in parks to deter vandalism, trash, and illegal activities. The Parks department has had some success using flash cams that are mounted about 25 feet above ground. The cameras, which are activated by motion, announces that a photo is about to be taken and then takes three photos. Positioning a flash cam at Springdale Park would have to be precise in order for it to be effective. The cameras could also be a nuisance to nearby homes. Cameras are only one part of the solution. Residents need to make sure the park stays well kept and that people are present in the parks. This helps remove the “nobody cares” element and helps prevent problems. Residents also must report problems or suspicious behavior to police. This can be done anonymously. Wilson noted that the Parks department has recently trimmed trees and added new mulch to Springdale Park. He suggested we post a neighborhood watch sign near the park. Wilson said he could look into helping the neighborhood get the bench at the pergola repaired.

Joe Wheby will work with Wilson to find an appropriate person or group to paint the concrete play animals at the park. James Keith agreed to send an email summary of the discussion to Wilson.

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC):

Following a discussion of the deliberations that took place at the September HPC meeting, the neighborhood agreed to continue its support for the Singh family regarding the COA request for 619 S. Mendenhall St.

Next Meeting: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no November meeting. The next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 2 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.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Horn, Secretary