

College Hill Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

7 p.m., May 26, 2015

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

Minutes from the April 27 meeting were approved, as written, on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Marjorie Bagley reported via email that there has been no change in our account. There have been no transactions since the last report.

Neighborhood Watch: Nothing to report. Continue to remind residents to lock car doors and put valuables out of sight.

UPDATES AND OLD BUSINESS

Neighborhood Plan: Jeff Sovich distributed hard copies of the Neighborhood Plan to all of the Board Members. Dan Curry has some extras. We (Dan?) will prepare a nomination of the CHNA Neighborhood Plan for the NC Planning Association Award for city and neighborhood plans.

Street Lights: Jim Edmonds, from Duke Energy, and Kim Smith, liaison between Duke and City of Greensboro, came to talk with us about Phase 2 of lighting plan. Instead of walking the neighborhood, the lighting map was used to mark new lighting locations. There was a question then discussion about converting our historic lights to LED. That change would require a complete change of the fixture (new top). Spring City has one, but it does not meet Duke Energy standards, and there is a conversion cost. We would like to explore and get more information. A question about vegetation blocking some lights — could Duke crew trim for visibility? No, but Jeff Sovich said to call Field Operations, and they will do it. Homeowner will be called first.

Landscaping: No report from Amanda Keith. Lyddan Pawlowski reported that the wall is going up at the Market St. and Tate St. entrance into College Hill. Discussion followed about the leaning wall on Mendenhall St. HPC denied the request to demolish it, but after a year it can be torn down. David Arneke suggested that Mike Cowhig take this on. Dan Curry will be in touch with Mike.

NEW BUSINESS

Edgar St.: Virginia Haskett gave background. Back in the Fall of 2014 she called the city to verify if permits were in place for work being done. The city contact responded that Edgar is not a city street. The city has maintained Edgar "somewhat" - especially around storm drains. There is a need to clarify responsibilities. Virginia would like to have the city treat it as every other street.. Other alleys exist in the neighborhood, though some are impassable. Discussion ensued about how to proceed. Jeff Sovich will find out who to talk to, probably someone in the City Attorney's Office. Once we know who to contact, we will make a formal request stating what we want along with the City's commitment to maintain.

609-613 Mendenhall St.: The retaining wall next to the property adjacent to our empty lot needs to be repaired. The contractor working at 613 S. Mendenhall knows someone who is interested in building a SMALL single family house. After some discussion, we decided we would like to hear more and should invite the interested party to a CHNA Board meeting. Our lot needs to be appraised.

Wheels on the Greenway: Jeff Sovich announced this bicycle event to be held on May 31 from 2-4 pm at Morehead Park. Several opportunities for fun — Ride the Greenway, Bling you Bike, Fix-it Station.

Flags: Arlen Nicolls asked if there were any College Hill flags available. Since there are none, it was discussed whether we should have some more made. Would be a fundraising opportunity. To be continued.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

COA Application - 712 Morehead Ave. Installation of telecommunications cabinet (continued from April). Unless our concerns have been resolved, CHNA still in opposition. Policy direction needed from Historic Districts.

Rezoning application to remove property at 1107, 1109, 1111 W. Market St. from College Hill Historic District - There are interested buyers for these properties (for commercial use) if they are removed from the Historic District. The State Historic Preservation Office is against removing property. Defending the edges of historic districts is crucial. Judy Horn made the motion that CHNA oppose this request. Seconded by Virginia Haskett. Vote was unanimous in opposition of rezoning request.

Special Use Permit request - Owners of 407 S. Mendenhall St. are requesting permission to operate a Tourist House (Air B and B). The owners have designated 3 bedrooms to be used, will post no signage, and know that any exterior changes would be subject to the COA process. Jeff Sovich explained the City's regulations, one of which is that the owner reside on the property. Currently, the owners do not, and that was a big concern for the Board. After some discussion about zoning, we decided that "we're ok" with the request. Virginia Haskett made the motion that "we express to the deciding body our reservations about the number of unrelated people residing on the property and the requirement for owner occupancy". Seconded by Daniel Foil. Motion approved with 1 abstention.

Date of the next meeting will be Monday, June 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clara Kelly, CHNA Secretary