

College Hill Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

7 p.m., May 28, 2013

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

Community Watch Report – 6:30 p.m.

Officer Melanie Daniel reported that crime activity has been low within College Hill during the past month. There was, however, a car break in on Lily Street during the past month.

Monthly Meeting – 7 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: V. Haskett motioned and J. Keith seconded approval of the minutes from the April 22, 2013 meeting with one minor correction of a typo. Approved on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: On behalf of Marjorie Bagley, Judy Horn reported that, in order to avoid monthly fees due to low balances, Marjorie has closed the SunTrust account and transferred the \$817.97 that was in that account into the BB&T account. She deposited \$40 in mug sales to the BB&T account. This brings the balance in the BB&T account to \$1,034.35. Marjorie also has opted to receive paperless statements in order to avoid the \$2 monthly paper statement fee. She will save the statements as PDFs and share with the neighborhood association.

Guest Speaker: Jeff Sovich, Neighborhood Planning Coordinator for the City of Greensboro, addressed the group regarding re-starting the neighborhood planning process. The objective of planning is to increase the quality of life and make College Hill a more desirable neighborhood. Planning work had begun in 2008 and was about two-thirds complete when it was sidelined by issues related to rezoning the Newman Machine property into The Province. Jeff shared documents developed in 2008 which included a vision statement, goals and implementation steps. These draft documents will be updated and a neighborhood summit is tentatively scheduled for **Monday, Aug. 12** with meetings in the midday and evening. Locations and times are yet to be determined. The city will help publicize the planning summit meetings, but the neighborhood should also plan to help get the word out. College Hill residents are urged to become familiar with the draft planning documents, which are posted on the CHNA website.

UPDATES AND OLD BUSINESS

Tree Inventory and Tree Management Plan: In response to the recent Tree Inventory RFP, the City received two proposals, one from Arbor Pro in California and one from William Lock & Associates in Greensboro. Mike Cowhig discussed the project, noting that the goals are to help College Hill be proactive in managing trees and restoring the tree canopy within the neighborhood. The inventory will map all trees in College Hill, both on public and private property. J. Wheby motioned and V. Haskett seconded a proposal to accept William Lock as the tree inventory vendor. The motion was approved on a voice vote. In advance of the inventory, the city and neighborhood will need to alert residents that the tree inventory is being completed and that workers will need to enter yards in order to complete the work.

Historic Tax Credit Workshop: Mike Cowhig encouraged residents to attend upcoming workshops focusing on obtaining historic tax credits for commercial and residential restoration projects. The Commercial Workshop will be held at the Greensboro Historical Museum, 130 Summit Ave., on Thursday, June 27 from 12:30 to 5 p.m. The Residential Workshop will be held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 607 N. Greene St., on Friday, June 28 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Street Light Project: Kym Smith, Street Lighting Coordinator for the City of Greensboro Department of Transportation, has recently met with a representative of Progress Energy. (Progress Energy has merged with Duke Energy.) Kym had made no progress with discussions with Duke, but feels that she may possibly be making some progress in getting the lighting project moving. Mike Cowhig said that Kym would like to meet with the neighborhood as soon as possible to discuss the lighting project. Mike agreed to talk with Kym about setting up a meeting. Joe Wheby mentioned that several street lights have been removed and some do not work. It was agreed that these would be mentioned at a meeting with Kym, but that residents should call 373-CITY to report lights that are not working. Board members who have dealt with Duke Energy in the past will pass along contact phone numbers that have worked in the past.

Publicizing College Hill: David Arneke mentioned that Benjamin Briggs of Preservation Greensboro, Inc., feels that it would be worthwhile for the College Hill Neighborhood Association to periodically address the Greensboro City Council on progress and issues within the neighborhood. The neighborhood association used to do this in the past. The perception of some current Council representative is that College Hill is “done” and doesn’t need council attention. Benjamin also would like to see the Holiday Home Tour reinstated to bring people into College Hill. These tours ended in 1997. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the neighborhood association should devote time to determining events that would highlight our neighborhood. Possibilities include a Chili Cookoff, a Vintage Car night, or an Antique and Pottery Show.

Trash Cans: All trash cans have been installed. If residents notice overflowing trash cans, call 373-CITY to request that they be emptied.

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC): Lyddan Pawlowski reported that Kim Langlois had not responded to her request that serve on the HPC. David Arneke volunteered to be the College Hill representative, beginning in June 2013.

The Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) request to remove three trees as part of rebuilding a retaining wall at 909 Morehead Ave. was discussed. D. Arneke moved and V. Haskett seconded a motion to oppose the request to remove the three trees and replace the retaining wall with the proposed materials since those materials seem inappropriate and the largest tree is important to the streetscape tree canopy. In addition, the neighborhood requests that the applicant work with the Design Review committee and further investigate historically appropriate ways to solve the wall problem. Also, the HPC should determine if the satellite dish on the property (within view of the photos submitted in the COA) was placed with a COA, and, if not, position the dish appropriately with a COA. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

James Keith agreed to check on the status of updating HPC guidelines.

College Hill Lot: James will distribute via email proposals created by the person who is moving the lot on Mendenhall Street for converting the plot into a community garden. Please provide feedback to James.

NEW BUSINESS

Cost-Recovery Meeting: James Keith discussed a recent meeting he had with Sue Schwartz, director of TITLE. The meeting was called on short notice without advance notice of the topic to be discussed. The presidents of each of the three historic district neighborhood associations were present. Ms. Schwartz announced that she was developing a cost-recovery plan for the City and wanted the presidents’ input about assessing fees for COAs, fees for consultations with City staff, and fees for “after-the-fact” COAs. James informed Ms. Schwartz before providing input, he must first take the issue to the neighborhood association for discussion.

The group discussed the probably impact fees for CoAs might have. It was noted that the HPC wants to increase the number of people who get CoAs prior to doing work; fees seem to be counter to this goal.

D. Arneke motioned and J. Moore seconded a motion to, at the HPC meeting when the issue is discussed, oppose fees for CoA applications and consultations with staff before work is done and support after-the-fact CoAs. In considering CoA fees, the City's Planning Department should address the issue of people already not applying, and nothing should be approved regarding fees for CoAs and consultations without formal discussions with the Historic Districts. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, June 24 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.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Horn, Secretary

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Please send news to Judy Horn by email to editor@collegehillgreensboro.net.