

College Hill Neighborhood Association
Minutes of Monthly Meeting

7 p.m., Aug. 26, 2013

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

Community Watch Report – 6:30 p.m.

Officer Melanie Daniel reported that there was a burglary and car broken into, both occurring on Houston Street, during the past month. Otherwise, crime activity has been low.

Monthly Meeting – 7 p.m.

Guests: In addition to College Hill residents, Councilman Zach Methany and city employees Mike Cowhig and Jeff Sovich attended the meeting.

Motion to Approval Minutes: D. Arneke motioned and L. Horn seconded approval of the minutes from the July 2013 meeting with the correction of a typo in the Treasurer’s report section. Approved on a voice vote.

Treasurer’s Report: No report. James Keith noted that the association recently paid \$160 for summertime lawn mowing of the lot on South Mendenhall Street.

UPDATES AND OLD BUSINESS

House at 919 Spring Garden: Councilman Zach Methany; Councilwoman Nancy Vaughn; Dawn Chaney of the Redevelopment Commission of Greensboro; Mike Cowhig, Executive Secretary of the Historic Preservation Commission; and Benjamin Briggs of Greensboro Preservation have all been working together to save this property. Dawn Chaney had requested a written plan that includes a firm offer for the property, which Mike Cowhig was organizing. A strong potential buyer is very interested in restoring the home and reportedly has funding for the large amount of work that must be done. When James Keith reported this to the Church’s Board of Trustees, they indicated that they had waited on this property for a long time and are interested in demolishing it. The chairman of the Board suggested that the church would extend the option to buy for one more month for a fee of \$500. This proposal to extend the option still needs to be voted upon by the full Board of the Trustees at the church. Following a discussion, the group decided to go with Zach Methany’s suggestion that the potential buyer pay the \$500. Because this plan is based upon a change to the MSD guidelines this plan will need to be made available to the public for input and approved by the City Council. Following discussion two motions were put forth:

Motion: D. Arneke motioned to support the change in the MSD plan to allow funds to be used for redevelopment. V. Haskett seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Motion: D. Arneke next motioned that the College Hill Neighborhood Association give President James Keith the authority to negotiate with the buyer of 919 Spring Garden to spend up to \$500 to cover the cost of the option extension. V. Haskett seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Fees for Certificates of Appropriateness (CoAs): Mike Cowhig reported that the City has heard the protests of the historic neighborhoods regarding charging for CoAs. Charging for these types of fees has been discussed at various times in Greensboro during the past two decades. In the most recently approved City budget, charging for fees was approved. Zach Methany reported that he has talked with the assistant city manager regarding this issue. Implementation of the fee for a CoA will be pushed back. Only the \$250 fee for an after-the-fact CoA will be implemented starting Oct. 1, 2014. The City will have a public meeting with historic districts to get input on CoA fees. Zach recommended we build on the existing

momentum and hold a meeting with the three historic district neighborhoods to determine how the city can best work with historic districts.

James reported that the three presidents of the Historic Districts have drafted a letter to the City Council stating our disagreement to charging fees for CoAs and citing concerns for the process that was used to include fees in the budget without neighborhood input.

Landscape Contract Renewal: The contract for landscape maintenance is up for renewal. Following a short discussion, the group decided that we lack adequate information to know what the renewed contract will cover. Therefore, it was agreed that James Keith would contact New Earth and ask for greater detail. Approval of the contract will be tabled until the September meeting.

Neighborhood Planning Meeting: Jeff Sovich showed a draft of a postcard to be mailed to residents regarding upcoming neighborhood planning meetings to be held in September.

Tree Inventory and Tree Management Plan: The project is ready to start. Residents will receive a postcard notification regarding workers coming onto private property.

Communications with Renters: No update at present.

Springdale Park Meeting: Some improvements to the park such as mulching have been done. David Arneke will contact Mike Simpson to check on tree trimming.

National Night Out: Turnout was disappointing and Councilman Zach Methany never got word that our neighborhood was holding an event. Police turnout was very good. Recommended that we start planning for next year's event earlier, such as in spring. We will know the date well in advance.

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC): There were no College Hill requests to discuss. Virginia Haskett noted that she will not be able to attend the Dec. 5, 2013 HPC meeting.

Fall Event in College Hill: Due to a lack of time for planning, we will revisit this issue at a later date.

Street Lights: We have made no progress in getting repairs and replacements. James will contact Zach to call a meeting with Duke to discuss street lights.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 23 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 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Horn, Secretary