

College Hill Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

7 p.m., Jan. 27, 2014

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

Motion to Approval Minutes: The minutes from the December 2013 meeting were approved on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: No report. (No major changes in bank balances were anticipated.) Related to the treasurer's report, James Keith stated that in the near future the neighborhood association should revisit the MSD funds. In planning for the future, we need to consider if the current rate at which funds are added via the special tax will provide adequate funds for the long-term needs of the neighborhood. At present, about \$8,000 per year is added to the College Hill MSD fund. The current balance is approximately \$700,000. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the association should develop a list of anticipated needs, ongoing maintenance costs, and long- and short-term goals for College Hill. This would lay the groundwork for a discussion of the financial plan of the association. We as an association also would benefit from a better understanding of what items the City pays for vs. what comes out of MSD funds.

Guest Speaker: College Hill resident and retired city employee Dan Curry spoke to the group about *Clean Energy Durham*, a non-profit organization which as the goal of getting people to become more energy efficient at home. The organization uses the "train the trainer" approach; neighbors attend a workshop training session and then teach other neighbors. Dan will be starting workshops in College Hill and passed around a sign-up sheet for people interesting in participating.

UPDATES AND OLD BUSINESS

Street Lights: Joe Wheby announced that all 11 street lights that were burnt out and which he had reported to Duke Energy (via Kym Smith) are now all working. This is a significant improvement in neighborhood safety! Joe also noted that the speed monitoring device set up on South Mendenhall Street stopped working.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations Committee: Elections for the new board will take place in February. Lyddan Pawlowski and Clara Kelly agreed to develop a list of candidates. Judy Horn agreed to email each of the current board members to see whether or not each is willing to serve again. She will also post a call for board members on the College Hill email/website/Facebook page. It was suggested that we should develop and post online job descriptions for each of the board positions.

Neighborhood Security: James Keith reported that he has attended several meetings, including one with the Chief of Police, where the use of surveillance cameras within College Hill to address crime and safety was discussed. The City's Comprehensive Crime Map of Neighborhoods 2009-2013 shows many "small" crimes in the College Hill area. These incidences of crime hurt property values and the neighborhood's reputation. Much of the crime takes place in the heart of College Hill rather than at the outer edges of the district. James noted that university students who subscribe to crime alerts see repeated alerts for the College Hill area and often conclude that the crime is commonplace in College Hill. A representative of a surveillance company that has already done some work in Greensboro has said that a 40% reduction in crime is possible with the use of cameras. No additional infrastructure is needed if equipment is hung on existing Duke Energy utility poles (pending Duke Energy approval). James will continue to gather information and will share it with the board for discussion and consideration. Modern camera security

systems are entirely wireless. Board members agreed that were such a system put into place, it would be beneficial to add signage informing people that cameras are in use.

Marketing College Hill

David Arneke will convene a meeting of individuals interested in helping to promote/market the College Hill Neighborhood and Historic District.

Historic Preservation Commission: Following a discussion of the application from the house on Tate Street, the board agreed to support the application so long as the Historic Preservation Commission did not find any discrepancies with the Historic Preservation Guidelines. Since neither Virginia Haskett nor any other board members were able to attend the meeting, Judy Horn agreed to email the association's support to Mike Cowhig.

Planning Process: Jeff Sovich reported that he walked through parts of the neighborhood in November, taking pictures and notes regarding items in need of repair and/or improvement. He entered all these items into the city's online Click-Fix account. After he had entered 15 to 20 items, he was told the City's system was overwhelmed. Jeff will continue to document his findings, but may have to hold off until the City's IT department works out the software problems. Jeff noted that he had only covered about 25% of the neighborhood in the November walk. Future walks will take place and residents are welcome to join him. A strategy that Jeff is interested in using is to focus on small visible projects and to enlist neighborhood input on which improvements can easily be made.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Horn, Secretary