

College Hill Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

7 p.m., September 21, 2014

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

Monthly Meeting

Motion to Approve Minutes: Virginia Haskett MOTIONED and Amanda Keith seconded to approve the minutes of the August 2014 meeting minutes as printed. The minutes were approved on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Margery Bagley reported via email that with the balance of our account in BB&T is \$2,155.49.

UPDATES AND OLD BUSINESS

Neighborhood Planning

Jeff Sovich spent Friday, Sept. 12, at various businesses on Tate Street getting input about the neighborhood plan. Based on the issues brought forth, he plans to reconceive the Future Land Use map. The most recent feedback provided indicated that some residents still harbor bad feelings about the creation of the historic district now many years ago. Others feel the neighborhood plan as currently written will segregate and limit low-income rental options in College Hill. Jeff will also seek additional input at the Tate Street Festival. No date has yet been decided upon for when the plan will go back to the Planning Board.

Street Lights

Duke Energy has provided the city with a professionally prepared map of College Hill showing the street lighting. James Keith will be meeting with the city to finalize the sites of additional lighting. He will bring the final proposal back to the CHNA board for discussion and a vote. The traditional light posts that are needed have been ordered but have not yet been installed. Street signs that will go on the posts are in development.

Neighborhood Clean Up:

Virginia Haskett asked that all clean-up volunteers check in between 9:30 and 10 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the Church of the Covenant on Saturday, Oct. 4. Local businesses have donated some prizes and food for the event. Judy Horn agreed to provide Virginia with donation letters and thank you letters to provide to businesses that support the event. Joe Wheby agreed to take photos at the clean up.

Landscaping:

Amanda Keith, head of the landscape committee, noted that the neighborhood has \$6,000 in still-to-be-spend funds remaining on the current landscape contract. Suggestions for ways to spend this money include cleaning up the neighborhood-owned lot on South Mendenhall, sprucing up the area around Springdale Park, cleaning up the lower area of Springdale Park, and/or cleaning up the "hell strips" in College Hill. David Arneke MOTIONED that the board allows the landscape committee to have the authority to determine how the \$6,000 will be spent. Virginia seconded the motion. It passed on a voice vote.

Amanda also reported that an RFP was sent to four landscapers. Two responded. The RFP was for conducting a neighborhood landscape workshop (where input would be sought from residents) and for help in planning the College Hill landscape. The committee recommended we accept the proposal by Randal Romie of Designature Landscape Designers, P. O. Box 38903, Greensboro, NC, 27438. David

Arneke MOTIONED that we accept Randal Romie's proposal. Joe Wheby seconded the motion. It passed on a voice vote.

Marketing Committee Report

David Arneke reported that he has approached Tate Street businesses in order to get some sponsors for the neighborhood guide that is under development.

President's Items

James reported that he was asked to help renters of a home on Mendenhall Street. The home has been divided into 7 apartments resulting in serious electrical issues. He contacted Roy McDougall of the Code Enforcement office at the City of Greensboro. Any resident in Greensboro can request an inspection of a rental property. Five residents must sign (cannot be anonymous) in order to trigger an inspection. The group discussed if this process could be used to address problems with rental properties in College Hill that do not meet code.

James reported he had met with Greensboro Police and City officials regarding use of surveillance cameras. At the meeting UNCG reported that they had learned a lot from firsthand experience and that they would share their experiences with the City. One of the universities recommendations was that the City should have a staff member dedicated to surveillance issues.

Go-Around

David Arneke reported that the City only has rules regarding outdoor dining on sidewalks for the downtown area, so the restaurants on Tate Street, such as Coffeology and NY Pizza, have not rules that they must follow. Jeff Sovich noted, however, that ADA rules would apply throughout the city. Both Coffeology and NY Pizza have been known to completely fill the public sidewalks with tables and chairs, making it hard for pedestrians to use the sidewalks.

Joe Wheby recommended listening to a recent NPR segment about how one Baltimore neighborhood near Loyola University deals with large numbers of college student residents. The audio clip is available at the NPR website.

Virginia noted that the Tate Street businesses she visited when soliciting donations said they really experience a collapse in business during the summer months. Local residents are urged to frequent these businesses, especially during the summer. Virginia suggested that we might consider holding CHNA meeting at some of these businesses during the summer months.

Historic Preservation Commission

#1794 - 317 S. Tate Street – Add two small concrete pads beside the driveway where vehicles have created holes. – The CHNA had no objection to this after-the-fact COA.

#1804 - 912 Spring Garden Street – Create gravel parking area – The CHNA had no objections to this after-the-face COA but was troubled by the new property owner not being aware his property was within the historic district.

#1805 - 200 S. Tate Street – Replacement of front porch floor – The CHNA is in opposition because the decking is inappropriate material (tongue-and-groove should be used).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Horn, Secretary