

Fisher Park Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Monday June 28, 2010

President John McLendon called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the Haywood Duke room at Holy Trinity Church. Board members present were John McLendon (ex officio), David Craft, Greg Grieve, Sherry Rogowski, Sarah Jordan, Robert Kantlehner, Judy Morton, and Angie Smits. Absent were Jane Jackson, Sonya Lowe, Connie Usry, Sally Atwood, and Nicole Crews. Also present were Ann Stringfield for the communications committee, and Donna Newton and Susan Taaffe for the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** John introduced Donna Newton and Susan Taaffe.
- 2. Greensboro Neighborhood Congress.** Donna gave an overview of the Neighborhood Congress, which is an alliance formed to improve the quality of life within the City of Greensboro by addressing issues of citywide importance and empowering neighborhoods to resolve concerns. Next Meeting is in the Nussbaum room of the Central Library on July 10th at 9:00 a.m. The meeting in August will be on Thursday as the meetings rotate between a Thursday night and Saturday morning. The topic for the next meeting is sustainability, with guests Joel Landau and Bob Powell who are co-chairs of the Community Sustainability Council appointed by the Greensboro City Council.
- 3. Report from May 26th Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.**
 - 617 North Elm St. – First Presbyterian Church columbarium. The FPNA Board expressed concern that digging for the columbarium will be in close proximity to a magnolia trees and could damage the roots of the trees. The FPNA Board recommended that the distance from the tree be at 25 feet; however, the Commission approved the COA at 20 feet based on a report from the City Urban Forester and a revised letter from the arborist hired by the church. The Commission also included a condition for the church to fertilize the trees.
- 4. Agenda Items for June 30th Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**
 - Intersections in Historic Districts – ADA ramps. Federal law requires the City to install handicap ramps at all intersections with pedestrian crossings. The ramps must include a detectable warning surface with a different color and the city has used yellow. Other colors have been used in other cities. There was discussion about asking the City to develop a policy for the historic districts regarding color of signal equipment, ramps, etc. David Craft suggested sending a request to Aycock and College Hill to get together and come up with recommendations. A motion was made to recommend that the City use a dark color to be harmonious and compatible with the historic district. The motion was unanimously approved.
 - 308 Parkway – remove a Mulberry Tree. The Board concurred that this tree removal should be approved as the Mulberry is considered an invasive species and the owners of this home have recently added many trees to their property. A motion was made to support the HPC staff recommendation for removal. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. **Minutes of April 26 and May 24 FPNA Board Meeting.** To be available for the next meeting.

6. **Treasurer's Report.** Angie reported that there was a payment made for the printing of the Fisher Parker. Expenses for the Hootenanny were also paid, as were expenses for plants in the park.

7. **Committee Reports.**

- Communications – Ann Stringfield reported that the June Fisher Parker has been delivered and that about 900 were printed. She also reported we have 25-30 block captains who deliver.
- Events - Thanks to Nicole for a great job on the Hootenanny. National Night Out is August 3.
- Neighborhood Watch – no report
- Park and NeighborWoods – Sally Atwood has marked the trees in the park to be watered by and will send emails to those who have volunteered. Next park workday to be rescheduled.
- Streets and Sidewalks – John has submitted the request to GDOT to reduce speed limits along Elm other through streets. He reported that First Presbyterian has sent a letter in support and that Holy Trinity will send a letter in support of this request.

8. **Other Updates.**

- Downtown Design Manual – focus has been changed to guidelines that are voluntary with some weight of persuasion rather than standards that must be followed. A public meeting to review the revised draft is scheduled for July 8 at 6:00 PM in the Cultural Center on Davie Street.
- City Manager Neighborhood Walk – City Manager and other senior staff will take a neighborhood walk in four to six neighborhoods. City Council members may participate. The idea is to hear what the neighbors like about their neighborhood and what they are concerned about. The walk for Fisher Park is scheduled for Monday July 12th at 5:30 to 7:30, subject to weather, with part of the tour walking and part riding in a van so they can cover more ground. There will be a rest stop midway at Delancey Street. Ann and John are coordinating the details.
- Fisher Park Endowment at CFGG – To be discussed further at a future meeting.

John also reported that a neighbor contacted him with concerns about the condition of two houses on Elm Street. John indicated that concerns about upkeep should be reported to City inspections and code enforcement at 373-2489 (CITY). Residential units must have a Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy (RUCO). Owner-occupied units there are subject to minimum housing standards. Ann mentioned that anyone who has questions about preserving historic homes could call Benjamin Briggs at Preservation Greensboro for suggestions.

Minutes prepared by:

Sherry Rogowski, Secretary