

**Fisher Park Neighborhood Association, Inc.**

**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

Monday February 21, 2011

**In attendance** Sally Atwood, Cate Wineburg, Robert Kantlehner, Judy Morton, Angie Smits, Elizabeth Knight, Anne Marsh, Daintry O'Brian, Don Smith.

**Minutes** from the December 2010 and January 2011 meetings were unanimously approved.

**January HPC Meeting** : Robert Kantlehner reported that the COA for 105 East Bessmer was continued to the next HPC meeting for staff to review. First Presbyterian Elm Street parking lot/landscaping project was approved.

**Deep Roots** is holding another meeting for neighborhood input, at Downtown Greensboro INC., 122 N. Elm St. at 12:00 on Feb. 25. Robert Kantlehner and Angie Smits to attend.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$4216 in checking, \$14511 in money market account. Income from luminaria sale has all been deposited.

**Communications:** The next issue of the Fisher Parker is scheduled for March 11 distribution.

**Historic District Board Members Forum** is scheduled for April 9 from 9am-3pm at Blandwood. Need 70% of board members to participate; none of the three historic districts have enough people signed up yet. Suggest making a video of the presentation available for those not able to attend.

**Park Committee:** Planted 300 donated bulbs in the park. Need to divide bulbs in late spring/early summer, possibly at the June park workday. Committee met to discuss proposed projects and funding for the upcoming year. Potential projects include repair bridge masonry, add steps at Digby corner, replace interior light posts with more attractive down-facing lights, excavate steps believed to be buried in west park (have donor in place to help pay for restoration). Next park workday is the April 16 Spring Cleanup. Need to add budget line for donations and expenses earmarked for park projects such as planter maintenance.

Need to elect a **Vice President** who will become President next year. Suggest names to Robert Kantlehner.

Robert spoke to the idea of establishing a fund to use for buying/selling endangered properties in Fisher Park. Could set up an **Endowment Committee** to set goals, make a 5-year plan, 10-year plan, etc. with a finance manager to solicit donations, planned giving, bequests, etc. Several board members expressed interest in pursuing further.

Minutes prepared by Angie Smits, Treasurer.

There were no new **COA applications** from Fisher Park to discuss for the July HPC meeting.

Rachel Cannon-Percival reported that as **neighborhood greeter** coordinator she has made updated packets that are distributed to new neighbors by our four neighborhood greeters. The folder has a copy of the HPC guidelines as well as other pamphlets and information from the city regarding garbage pickup, recycling, etc.

Sonya Lowe, **Neighborhood Watch** Coordinator, reported that police department statistics show that crime is down. We are all set for National Night Out next Tuesday, August 3 from 6:30-8pm in the park.

Sally Atwood reported for the **Park Committee**. There are 15 volunteers watering planters and 36 volunteers watering the newly planted Neighborwoods trees in the park during dry weather. Hoses that the park committee bought for this purpose were a great investment and have not yet been stolen! Park co-chair Carl Myatt has contracted with stonemason Lafayette Brown to repair bridges in the park. He will reassemble stones that have fallen into the creek, re-grout the stones and tops of the bridges to prevent future water leaking/deterioration. Cost is \$800 which has been approved by Brooks Mullane/Gso Parks & Rec. Brooks is checking to see if a COA is needed for this work. Masonry work in the creek/culvert is also needed but is very expensive; plan is to ask Lafayette Brown for an estimate on that job if the bridge work goes well. Next park committee meeting and workday are in the Fall, though one may be added sooner, weather permitting, for general maintenance (weeding, etc.).

Rachel Cannon-Percival and David Myers spoke about the city's use of **herbicides in the park**. A group of concerned neighbors are in the information-gathering stage on this issue. So far they have learned that the city contractors use Round-Up Pro in the park at least once per month. Group would like to find out what they are spraying for, if they can give notice when this will be done, if this is working, if this poses a hazard to people or animals, and if there are non-chemical alternatives that the park committee could explore. Rachel's group will get back to the board with further information.

**Streets and Sidewalks:** John reported that GDOT is once again considering whether to make Greene Street two-way.

**Greenway:** Phase 3 drop-in meeting is this Thursday July 28 from 12-2pm and 5-7pm in the old Bingo Hall 421 West Smith St. Plans are also available online at [www.greensboro-nc.gov/GDOT](http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/GDOT). Neighbors' input is encouraged since this section of the Greenway borders Fisher Park neighborhood. The city is

applying for a federal stimulus grant to expedite construction of the Greenway. FPNA was asked to write a letter in support of this effort; John had written a draft which the board endorsed.

**Downtown Design Guidelines:** this zoning overlay is going to Zoning commission public hearing on August 9. Robert Kantlehner will attend.

**City Manager/staff walk** through Fisher Park is postponed until Fall.

**Community Foundation Endowment Fund:** board still needs to discuss how to spend some of this money.

**Goodwill** pilot program: neighborhoods have been approached about having donation bins that households will use to collect donations and put out periodically for collection, similar to recycling bins. Board decided not to pursue this project at this time.

We have also been approached by **Triad Stage** who is starting a program to give back a percentage of ticket sales to organizations. FPNA would have an assigned number which neighbors would use when buying tickets, and Triad Stage would periodically donate a percentage of sales back to the association. Board was in favor of the idea provided that it is not considered advertising or an exclusive endorsement.

Minutes prepared by: Angie Smits, Treasurer.