

Minutes of the NPNA meeting held on Aug. 15, 2013

at the Friendly City Civitan Club, Glendale Ave

1. Attending:

Board Members (quorum 4): Debra Hawkins, Carol Henderson, Alice Kolacinski, Ian Pond, Adam Shestak, Dan Singer

Residents: none

Handouts: Meeting Agenda Aug. 15, 2013, Treasurer's Report, NPNA income/Cost Summary, July 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes, Northgate N'hood Bordering Businesses Aug. 2013

Meeting presided over by Ian Pond and called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2013 were approved as corrected.

3. Community Topics discussed:

National Night out

- Thanks to Deb Hawkins, Nancy Kneepkens and Mike Shiflett for leading the event Aug. 6, 2013. Special thanks to Alice Kolacinski for manning the membership table for the entire event.

T shirt contest

- Deb will place an order for 200 T shirts Aug. 15 (after the meeting).
- Motion was approved to commend Deb for her efforts and to place an order for the first run of T shirts up to \$1500.00.
- The above motion was amended and approved to include payment of up to \$1500.00 for the T shirt order.
- Motion was approved to offer a \$1.00 discount per T shirt to NPNA members and those renewing their membership.
- Dan will send Deb a list of last year's NPNA members and current members.

Halloween

- Ian will ask Donald Clary if the Elgin Street block will host this year. Last year they did not have a block party. Ian will let Donald know that Deb has some suggestions and contacts for entertainment.

Neighborhood Yard Sale

- Ian will ask Mike Konvicka if he will organize the event again this year. The scheduled date is Oct., 12, 2013. Raindate is Oct. 19th.

Chalkwalk

- Wendy Tregay will organize the event again this year. She will let us know what date the event will be held.

Foodtrucks

- There were fewer food trucks assigned at the July and August rodeos due to anticipated heat affecting attendance.

Newsletter

- Distribution of the 3rd quarter newsletter should occur by Labor Day week. Deb gave us a list of businesses that border NPNA. They might be interested in newsletter advertising. Four to five additional advertisements are needed to support the addition of another page.

INC:

Highlights from INC July 2013 meeting

- Motion was approved for Deb to abstain from voting on the Proposed Expansion of the Cleveland Holloway district.

Debra Hawkins gave an update on the Neighborhood Event at Central Park. The new date for the event is September 15th, from 4-6PM. Deb will send out an announcement to the list-serve, letting neighborhoods know about opportunities for a table and making sure there aren't any conflicts with the date. Several neighborhoods indicated already that they want to have a presence. The History Hub might do a kids' activity where the kids would go to different tables and booths in a kind of treasure hunt. There would also be food trucks, which would probably help pay for the event. Tom Miller moved, and John Martin seconded that INC authorizes the committee to spend up to \$500 on the event; this passed with one abstention.

John Martin reported that Dick Ford and Don Lebkes have been working on a candidate forum. We will be teaming up with the League of Women Voters. No-one has talked about any costs. There will be 2 forums, one for the primary and one for the general election, both to be held at the downtown library. The dates will be:

Primary – Tuesday, September 10, to include just the races with enough candidates to require a primary (mayor and District 4)

General – Tuesday, October 15

The body then discussed the Cleveland-Holloway Local Historic District; see Appendix A. The issue is maintaining neighborhood character, integrity and control by avoiding holes in the historic district. Tom Miller moved the resolution, with a second from Bill Anderson, to put it on the agenda for August. Tom Miller then moved, with a second from Bill Anderson, that the issue is urgent enough that Executive Committee can make a decision on it if the issue will come before City Council before the next delegate meeting; this passed with one abstention.

Pat Carstensen and Tom Miller reported on legislation on protest petitions. Protest petitions have been part of zoning rules since local governments were allowed to zone in 1923; they allow property owners in or near a proposed re-zoning to ask that any approval require a super-majority of the decision makers. One of the provisions of the so-called regulatory reform bill in the NC General Assembly would take away this property right. Currently conferees are creating the final version, and we are hoping that enough alarm has been raised across the state to keep the protest petition clause out of the final version. There was concern about maintaining our non-partisan status if we are doing something that looks like lobbying, and also a request to provide more explicit talking points, forms, and so on if someone is asked to take action about legislative issues. An informal committee will be working on a proposal for neighborhood reaction to legislation; more volunteers are welcome.

We voted last month to endorse a Cell Tower Resolution. A new cell tower proposal has come in for around the corner of Guess and South Lowell Road. After a lot of discussion, we agreed that John could send another letter about the resolution.

Pat Carstensen described 2 proposed re-zoning around NC54 and I40 that would significantly contradict adopted (by the Metropolitan Planning Organization, on which the city is represented) transportation plans for the area; in particular, there was a significant investment in money and citizen participation in producing a long-term plan for the NC54 corridor. Cross Counties, Downing Creek and Falconbridge are tracking the re-zonings.

Other business:

- Ian will get with Dan regarding email aliases.
- Adam Shestak is our Registered Agent for NPNA's non-profit status. He will verify that our status is still current.
- Motion was approved to fund the annual yard sale and chalk walk for \$50.00 each.

- Suggested program speakers for future meetings: Status of creek restoration, pedestrian study data.
- Deb is willing to maintain a Facebook page for NPNA.

Online voting

- Motion was approved to reimburse Debra for her National Night Out expenses. Initial request was made July 31st. The final vote was received Aug. 6th.
- Motion was approved for the following: "That the NPNA board approve the use of the NPNA as applicant on a form to be submitted to the Durham Scrap Exchange, requesting a donation under their charitable program to obtain tree banding materials, for distribution by the members of the Northgate garden club to residents and for use by same in banding park and street trees in the neighborhood. A 'yes' vote would be to allow the use of NPNA for the application as described." Initial request was made Sept. 6th. Final vote was received Sept. 6th.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial Activity:

Beginning balance: \$2400.57

Income: \$692.00
Expenses: \$ 1.33

Ending balance: \$3091.24

Membership: 60
Households: 60; Commercial: 0

Note: membership has increased to 69 per Dan.

Topics for next meeting:

Guest speaker- Alex Johnson will present the City's tree planting program offer.

2013/2014 priorities first agreed upon at July 18th, 2013 meeting.

- We should put an emphasis on membership renewal for the next three or four months.
- The web site domain name needs to be renewed.
- What kind of web presence do we need? The sheriff's office is going to use Nextdoor.com as their communication tool.
- Lavender St. house projects- Art installation, other ideas
- Develop a financial plan to increase the funds in the NPNA account in order to help the neighborhood.
- Reduce the cost of the newsletter with more advertising.