

**Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Monthly Meeting, January 20, 2005,
6:30PM**

40 people present, including John McCain, columnist from the Herald Sun.

Treasurer's Report: 130 current memberships

Checks Written: \$9.31 potluck drinks
\$18.55 Home Depot: sand for luminaries
\$51.36 Dollar Store for candles

Sales from Luminaries: 8 new members joined, 25 sales
25 x 10 = 250 individual bags of luminaries

280 bags set around

Luminaries: \$201.00 rec'd - \$18.55 (sand) - \$51.36 (candles) - \$14.22 (bags)
= \$116.87 profit from Luminary sales

Total Deposits: \$271.00, interest earned: \$0.32

Balance in checking account: \$2254.09

Announcements:

Senior care application (discounts for prescriptions), Cheryl had 2 packets

Mike Konvicka, member of Northgate Presbyterian Church, announced the formation of the **Wings Community Art Center**, a community-building project of the church. David Keck is pastor and Fred Westbrook chairs the Art Center Committee. There is currently a call for artists who are interested in studio space, teaching classes, and joining with other artists. There will be an Open House on January 29, 2005 at 4pm at the Art Center. To RSVP or for more information call Fred at 824-4699 or David at 220-2600. Find out more at <http://www.northgatepresbyterian.org/wings.htm>. The church also has other community based programs, including Growing Trends After School Program, English as a Second Language Classes, and new classes such as Line Dancing beginning in the middle February 2005. Call the church to request more information, 220-2600.

Security and Safety Pamphlets distributed at meeting by Cheryl Sweeny, and copies will be made available by Cheryl to interested individuals.

Old Business:

Steve Loziuk (Transportation Division, Public Works Department, City of Durham) has corresponded with Cheryl in a follow-up from November 2004 meeting.

Speed data compiled, and we fall in the 85% percentile of speeds <35mph.

We now have a Yield sign on Higbee and Farthing, replacing the old Stop sign

KFC parking lot facing Roxboro Rd is encroaching on the right of way, and Steve will contact State dept. to see if this problem can be corrected.

Limiting turns on all 3 streets (Higbee, St. Paul, Davidson) is the only alternative to the speeding problem

City of Durham will get the signal lights fixed (timing plans are based on time of day)

Steve to follow up at February 2005 meeting on above items. Number to reach him at is: 560-4366

Locked Doors on Park rest rooms:

City has drained water from toilets to prevent freezing and bursting of existing facilities, and the rest rooms will re-open in the spring of this year, hopefully by the beginning of April.

"One Call" number to report illegal dumping, graffiti, trash, abandoned cars and houses in bad repair is: 560-1200

Alfred Davis, Solid Waste Director, City of Durham: 560-4185, ext 225: call for unsightly yards and debris

Northgate Park Renovations:

John Woods, lead landscape architect for the project, indicates that stream renovations of Ellerbee Creek will impact park design, and it will be March 2005 when they will report back to us on Park renovations proposals discussed at our November 2004 meeting.

Cheryl Sweeny has spoken with Patrick Baker, new Durham City Manager, regarding the loss of the original funds set aside for Northgate Park renovations: the original \$300,000.00 approved for renovations has now shrunk to \$150, 00.00. Northgate Park Association members are encouraged to get involved with contacting city officials to find out where the money went!

New Business:

Our featured speaker for the evening, Sergeant Howard Alexander, Gang Unit-Durham Police Dept, was unavailable to come to our meeting due to being involved in a case on the evening of 01/20/05.

A Pot luck diner for our March 2005 meeting was proposed and approved.

Neighborhood "Scams" discussed: do not open your house to strangers, call 911 and report incidents to police.

District 2 Sub Station will do house checks while you're gone on vacation/business, and the COPS patrol also assists with this service, Eric Hester from Durham Police

Dept will hold information meetings regarding security checks on homes and property for interested individuals.

A new neighborhood association, **Colonial Village**, has been formed - this includes Banner and Ellerbee streets. They are proposing to set up cameras to watch Club/Roxboro intersection at the BP station for gang/drug activity.

Pauline Bullock, Neighborhood Watch Captain of St. Paul street, reports that the Joy Convenience store and BP station both have **problems with gang activity and homeless people** at all hours of the day. Davidson Street has the biggest problem with gangs and homeless. Discussion of the 4 local pay phones (located at Shell station, Joy store and American Hero) are being used for drug contacts- the owners of the Joy and American Hero business are willing to cooperate with police in efforts to curb crime activity.

Suggestion made by Mike Schiflett to provide a description of suspects involved, license plate # on car along with description of make and model of car, and the Selective Enforcement Team can build a case against them with surveillance.

We have had a problem with drug activity for ~12 years now in our neighborhood, and as a Neighborhood Association, we can draft a letter to be sent to Durham mayor Bill Bell, Patrick Baker, Durham City Manager, and members of the Durham City Council to meet with us and address our concerns.

Tracey Jalbuena has kindly offered to draft letter this letter.

Owners/operators of our local businesses also need to be involved in this effort!

Action Plan Assignments made:

Pauline Bullock is to contact the local business owners to find out their willingness to remove the public pay phones.

Bill Ellingsworth is to contact American Hero business to see if neighbors and businesses can meet there for a discussion of a neighborhood watch against crime.

Eric Hester (City of Durham) can come and do a "Neighborhood Watch" presentation at a church or possibly the Civitan Club.

CALL 911 to report any suspicious activity in our neighborhood-it gets calls logged into the police station, and involves them in our efforts to make Northgate Park a safer place to live!

Drafting/sending letter to Durham city officials discussing our need to meet with them and discuss neighborhood problems. As mentioned above, Tracy will draft a letter on our behalf.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

02/17/05

6:30PM-8:30PM

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

Location: Park View Baptist Church

Treasurer report from Lisa Pitts:

\$40.00 refund to NGPNA member who missed having ad in last NGPNA
Newsletter
\$0.36 interest earned in account
Balance of Account: \$2214.45

Corrections made to last meeting notes re: Northgate Park Art Center from Marni
Correction made to spelling of Tracy Jalbuena

Draft of letter to be sent to City Manager Patrick Baker and Durham City Council read by Tracy Jalbuena. Discussion regarding additions to letter included: detail regarding the incident that occurred in January 2005 in our neighborhood with shooting death of a "gang member" on Roxboro Rd. A suggestion was made to come up with our own neighborhood plan for crime prevention and address this in a letter, rather than assume that police will take care of everything for us without neighborhood watch and involvement. And also to cc: Durham Police Chief Steve Chalmers a copy of final letter.

Motion was made requesting Tracy to implement the 2 additions to her existing GREAT letter, and we will photocopy signatures to the final copy from our sign up list from tonight's meeting.

Our guest speaker at tonight's meeting was Sergeant Alexander from the "Gang Unit" in the Durham Police Department, who gave us **a talk on gang activity in Durham.** Gangs are formed to make money, and drugs are the way of making big money in the shortest amount of time, the prominent gangs in our area are: Crips, Bloods, and Folks Nation. Sgt Alexander made us aware of the gang signs associated with Folks Nation, the six pointed star, each point representing: Love, Life, Loyalty, Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge. Another gang is known as "8 Ball" and these are members of the Folks Nation and Crips who "run" together. We had an explanation of the 3 world orders according to gangs:

1st World People: regular citizens who seek education, work, pay taxes, and are considered "regular" citizens.

2nd World People: those that slightly delve in drug activity

3rd World People: people who live in chaos-deal in and with drugs, money and murder.

Sgt Alexander explained that young people are heavily recruited by gangs because juveniles will not be prosecuted under our existing laws. We learned about the Folks Nation symbol: A three pointed sign (?) representing Mind, Body, and Soul. The culture of gangs is completely different on the West coast, according to Sgt. Alexander. But one fact does remain: all deaths between rival gangs have the retaliation factor-the police do not know when or how it will happen. We learned that the gang colors for Crips are blue, Bloods are red, and Folks Nation is black. The gang culture embraces violent themed music, and violence against women. Gangs are urban terrorists, recruit their new members at schools, and we as a neighborhood should continue to fight their presence by reporting gang signs in public places to the police, having neighborhood watch groups to be alert to suspicious activity by gang members, and calling police when it occurs.

New Business:

March meeting will be a potluck dinner at the Civitan Club. John Wood from Cline Associates will be there, as well as John Wood from City of Durham to discuss plans for Northgate Park. Patrick Baker, City Manager of Durham, is also expected. Please bring a dish to share, and new faces are always welcome!

April 16th is Northgate Park Clean Up day-8AM till 1:00PM. Bring loppers, small shears, tarps, and we need plenty of manual labor to bring debris to the curb for city pick up.

We are still seeking a Newsletter Editor! If interested, please contact Cheryl Sweeny.

Yard Waste Policy: IT DOES NOT WORK! Participation is down due to the high fees charges. Policy needs to be changed, and there was a quick discussion of a committee to be formed to come up with an alternate plan. All of the Durham city residents are concerned about this matter

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Potluck & Meeting

03/17/05 @6:30pm

Attendances 31

Treasurer's report: 134 current members
Membership drive in November: no results
Drinks for potluck \$8.90,
Deposit of \$136.00,
Interest of \$0.36
Balance in account **\$2327.69**

Neighborhood flyers still available for purchase, see Lisa Pitts for more info.

Minutes approved from February 2005 meeting.

Cheryl Indicates that information is needed for Neighborhood associations:

- what is objective of organization
- current community needs- check the list-serve for ideal input.

Traffic Calming:

Phil Losiack sent letter with diagram for traffic calming that he says is "gaudy." Cheryl says speed bumps on Farthing may be best option.

Northgate Park Renovations:

Cline Design team was present at meeting to introduce their ideals for park renovation, all present were given color layouts with their ideals.

The first suggestion given was meandering water channel (slow down water flow to reduce stress on banks of creek), or move it completely. Design phase will determine hydraulics. Native plants will be used as replacements (willows, dogwoods, alder were some examples given)

Plan design is due in ~6 months.

Late summer 2006 will be start of construction in Park, and October/November 2006 will be start of planting in park. Design plans should be finalized by September 2005.

Some concerns voiced from the neighbors included:

The master plan far exceeds the budget!

Protection for existing trees (some of which are 60 years old), Beaver concerns- estimate that they have cleaned out 80% of trees planted in 1999 in Northgate park, and lighting for the park is still to be investigated-more lighting is definitely needed, and security lighting on structures is also a big concern.

Mosquitoes are another concern for any water design in the park, and saving the stone entrance ways on Club Blvd and Glendale Ave was also voiced.

The design team had questions:

"How to make contact with the parents of Club Blvd school age children, to find out what they want?"

Bike paths was a suggestion, and thought from Lisa to have the team go to the park on a nice weekend day and make inquiries for the children then.

"What do people want out of their park?"

A suggestion was made to design building that would be "anti-graffiti" to replace existing structures.

Perimeter lighting- we need to have lighting after dark and early morning for the walkers. Request for old neighborhood park history from some of our long time residents was also voiced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Northgate Park clean up scheduled for Saturday, April 16th from 8 to 12. Please come and help even if it is only for an hour.

Chris Husack is our new Newsletter editor- Thanks so much,Chris! Good to have you back with us!

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
April 21, 2005
Civitan Club
13 members present

Treasurer Report: 136 current memberships
\$156.00 deposit
\$0.34 interest earned
\$2348.06 Balance

March meeting minutes amended to include the sapling sale

Guest Speaker: Kevin Lilly, Durham Urban Forester, "Our Urban Forest & How to Care for It"

Kevin opened up his talk with the statement that our trees have taken abuse from the Power line company due to floods and ice storms in the past. Their biggest challenge is to work with the urban foresters. The City of Durham has no plan for replacing large trees when they die. Kevin's group is introducing a list of trees that can live under power lines. His crew of 4 arborists has turned into a "reactive" force—they remove a dead tree when it's called in, just as fireman will do for a fire. There is federal Grant money available for Forest service—they are hoping to remove 100 of worst oak trees with a 3 way money match with City of Durham and Duke Power. Kevin has indicated that no trees will be planted in Northgate Park until restoration is set and complete.

A question was raised regarding city support of the trees, but Kevin's take is that crime, downtown rejuvenation is more important than trees, and Neighborhood Street Tree Program budget may be cut. Kevin's group is responsible for maintaining city property and city right of ways for trees taken down and planted. He also meets quarterly with Duke Power to present point of contact with each area being pruned by Duke Power.

The Urban Foresters are currently using an outdated bucket truck. Kevin has put in the budget for a new truck, as well as 2 additional arborist to the group, hopefully by July 2005. A suggestion was made to get a subcommittee formed from Northgate Park, and do a survey of our tree population to give information for the "Tree Sharing Program".

Kevin's tips for care and feeding of our old trees:

Physiology of roots is key to their survival.

Nutrients come 3-4' of roots.

Keep grass and plants away from tree-3" layer of mulch is better around the base of trees (leaves, pine straw, bark chips)

DO NOT PARK OR DRIVE NEAR ROOTS!

Avoid 3-4' around trees when fertilizing your yard.

In extreme heat-Water the tree-Not the lawn!

Nature will prune the tree naturally, so remove dead wood and diseased limbs only

To contact Kevin Lilly by phone: 560-4197, ext 227

New Business discussed:

"Adopt a Park" program on 04/18/05: report of 4-5 truckloads of waste were hauled to curb at end of clean up day. The next date for park clean up is to be decided. A suggestion was made to prune out the English ivy in park trees

Northgate Park draft letter to City: the group reviewed the 2 versions of letter, with suggestion of changing 2 questions to statements. A motion was made to have Tracey Jalbuena edit letter, and have Cheryl Sweeney's and Lil Caddell's names for signature (President and Secretary, respectively)

Neighborhood Concerns:

"Neighborhood Watch" brochures needed at next meeting

There is now a speed bump on Farthing

Shenandoah and Lavender need a 4 way stop sign, and Steve Losiak is to be contacted regarding this.

Saplings were available from Mark tonight!

A note to shop the Durham Farmers Market on Saturday mornings for locally grown and made food and flowers and plants, as well as crafts.

We had a request for a ¼ page ad in our newsletter, and we will be charging \$25.00 for this one time only ad.

Agendas for our neighborhood meetings are designed by Cheryl Sweeney and Lisa Pitts. Burning concerns should be given to Cheryl ahead of time so they can be put on agenda for discussion.

Next meeting scheduled for May 19th at the Civitan Club: Potluck and Plant Swap!

Treasurer's report: 136 current memberships

Newsletter cost:	\$117.70
Official letter to City:	\$1.46
Drinks for potluck:	\$7.88
Balance:	\$2221.02

(w/o new memberships that will be included in June)

Discussion regarding low memberships in Northgate Park Neighborhood Association:

We need information from other neighborhood associations how their membership's drives have gone. Where/how have they been successful? Colonial Village has a "Welcoming Committee"-could we do a "welcome letter" that would be a current newsletter to new neighbors along with coupons from local merchants? Mike S., Susan Brooks and Connie to draft a welcome letter and see what businesses would donate coupons for it.

New Business:

Committee to meet with City Manager for follow up to letter sent in early May-suggestions for committee would be Cheryl, Tracy, and Bill Ellingsworth.

Inappropriate Park Activities: loud music has been a nuisance-call 911 when it is a disturbance (call anytime during the day or night!)

National Night Out, Tuesday, August 2, 2005: Bill Ellingsworth has motioned that the site this year be the St. Paul and Farthing Street location. Bill has offered gas grill to cook on, and neighbors attending bring picnic fixings and desserts to round out the meal. Bill will be working on live music for the event.

Neighborhood Concerns:

High grass at Farthing and Maynard streets-Cheryl advised calling George Carter to alert him.

Mosquitoes are a problem around the park. The upcoming park renovation will hopefully reduce that situation.

Drabness of the underside of the bridge that will be a part of the Trail system discussed-Mike S. requested that interested artists, Club Blvd. school and Northgate park folks try to come up with something that will liven up that space. We have till 12/2006 when DOT will be finished with completion of I-85 work. Contact Aaron Earwood about plans for lights under the bridge.

Park Design Update:

John Wood to come to meeting in July/August to report on specific design plans for park. He needs to see pooling of water in the park that lasts for weeks. Incorporate wetland garden into meandering of Ellerbee Creek.

Newsletter articles:

Lisa Pitts advised that articles to be included be sent to our new newsletter editor, Chris Husack.

Nominating committee for new officer elections in June, 2005:

Jeff Dougan will search for new names for officers and board members to be voted in during our June Northgate Park picnic meeting.

New Newsletter Look:

Colored paper was donated by Chris Husack for a bright new look, and envelopes were attached for new and existing membership dues.

Meeting adjourned, and plant swap begun!

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

July 21, 2005, 6:30PM at Civitan Club

14 Neighbors attending

Treasurer's report: not available

Presentation of Master plan for Northgate Park by Cline Design Associates and Durham Dept of Parks and Recreation: Tanner Weeks and John Wood

Discussion of park design: 2 options

- (1) South existing corridor move to east. Regrade to eliminate stagnant areas.
- (2) North existing corridor, no realignment due to trees.

Key Points:

- tennis courts
- landscaping
- specimen tree preservation
- consolidation of playground equipment near tennis courts
- Incorporation of loop walkway with existing trails (upgrade to 5'-6' wide concrete trail)
- New bridge where existing one is (funded by Stream Restoration)
- Eliminate road by tennis courts
- Picnic area in central location

2005 bond would allocate \$314,000.00 to Northgate Park, and previous bond would contribute \$150,000.00. Grading around existing picnic shelter, recapping stone markers, upgrade on restrooms.

Discussion regarding a dog park in Northgate Park utilizing ball park area that is in poor shape. Time table estimated to begin in 2006. After site plan approval, future presentations will include choices of playground structures, color selection, and park lighting.

Ellerbee Creek Association is very interested in renovations to come.

Old Business:

- National Night Out was a huge success. We had over 110 neighbors, including Colonial Village members joining us. Bill's chicken could not be had after 7PM! Thanks for a great job, Mr. Vice President!

- Adopt a park on 7/23/05 from 8PM–noon. Minor trimming of crepe myrtles, weeding, removing poison ivy from trees, picking up limbs from park and taking to curb. Concentration on Lavender and Club Blvd. for these efforts. Parkview Baptist Church has been very helpful in past clean ups.
- Annual picnic in June, 52 people in attendance. Offices were nominated and selected. Cheryl Shiflett has agreed to be president until such time that a new president can be selected.

New Business:

- Pedestrian questionnaire was distributed for feedback on how to make Durham more walk able.
- Crime issues:
 - o Police report on Harold Serrat, handyman, 3 warrants for his arrest, last known to be in the Duke Park area looking for work. Scammers are out posing as handymen to gain access to homes to burglarize. If you need a reputable handyman/lawn maintenance person, make inquiries on the list serve, or check with your neighbors.
 - o Murder on Farthing Street: Landlords need an ordinance to deal with bad tenants and their behavior. Check prospective tenant's records.
 - o PAC meetings: Cindy Bailey runs Animal Control-speak with her regarding animal problems.
- Welcome Packets
 - o Committee formed: Nancy, Mike and Molly
 - o Welcome packet could consist of: maps, coupons from local merchants, information on Neighborhood Association meetings.
- Neighborhood Concerns:
 - o Next Potluck: September meeting include principal of Club Blvd. Magnet School.
- Yard Waste Committee:
 - o Cheryl Shiflett is on Durham committee. What is best for Durham, and what are other cities doing?

Due to technical difficulty (ran out of recording tape!), no further notes are available.

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
August 21, 2005 @ Civitan Club, 6:30PM
18 Attending (including members of Colonial Village and Duke Park Neighborhood Associations)

Treasurer Report:	70 Current memberships	
	Checks Written:	\$ 73.06
	Total deposits:	\$405.00
	Interest earned:	\$ 0.78
	Balance of Checking Account:	\$2603.60

Secretary's notes approved from July 2005 meeting.

New Business:

Neighborhood Traffic problems and solutions discussion

- Traffic speed on Shenandoah a problem-
4-way stop sign on Lavender and Shenandoah was consensus to ask for.
- Establish a traffic committee and use City officials to help us deal with problems.
- Standing Committee to be elected in September meeting to draft addition to current by-laws, motion passed.

Mark Ambrose is in charge of resubmitting plan for planting our traffic circle-Cheryl can get wholesale plants, and Dorthea Peirce (Keep Durham Beautiful) could also be contacted for plant purchase possibilities.

September meeting will be a potluck and meeting-the principal of Club Blvd. School to be invited, and make the PTA aware of our meeting.

Mike S. will get a Park clean up schedule ready for our meeting so we can plan ahead.

October meeting will include a plant swap

November meeting: Cline Design to be invited to give us a progress report.

Meeting Discussion on August 18: ideas for K-Mart shopping center

- Members of Duke Park/Colonial Village were present to discuss ideas for vacant shopping center. Ideas included Trader Joe's, Fresh Market, and specialty shopping, family recreational area. It was decided to first have a meeting of area neighborhood associations and the property managers of the shopping center to determine what ideas they have. A meeting had been scheduled for September 8th at the Duke park neighborhood association. The property managers cancelled their attendance at that meeting due to scheduling conflict. No future date has been set for a meeting with them.

- Mike Shiflett to obtain a current zoning ordinance of the area, and Cheryl Shiflett will obtain a demographic of the area.

Dog Park VS minimally used Ball Park:

- Do we want Dog Park? Poll will be included in our next newsletter.

Old Business:

Park Gardening Opportunities

- Mike S. will get a Park clean up schedule ready for our meeting so we can plan our schedule for 2005-2006.

National Night Out, August 2005

- Northgate Park and Colonial Village had the largest turnout for this annual event- over 100 people attended. Thanks to all who came!

Halloween Trunk or Treat

- We will have "Trunk or Treat" this year in parking lot in front of Park View Baptist Church. Church members will also be included in this event. We need a poster to announce this event.

- Volunteers needed to coordinate event.

Northgate Park neighborhood association donation of \$250.00 to New Hope Creek Project is due. Jeff Dougan to take care of sending check from us.

Northgate Park Welcome Pack Committee

- Nancy Grandjean, Molly Sanford and Mike Shiflett are committee members. An outline was presented of what could be included in the Welcome Pack.