

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting – January 18, 2007

- Meeting held at 6:30 PM on January 18, 2007 at the Civitan Club on Glendale Avenue
- Neighbors in attendance: Mark Ambrose; Caitlin Archdeacon; Banks Dixon; Jeff Dougan; Jennifer Kleckner; Lisa Pitts; Barry Ragin (Duke Park); Julie Ketner Rigby (Museum of Life and Science); Nancy Rizzo; Joshua Rosenbaum; Mike Rogers; Mike Shiflett; Dusty Wescott (Watts Hillandale); and Ann Zumwalt (Walltown)
- Treasurer Report:
 - Balance → \$1802.08 (does not include deposit from Night of Lights)
- November meeting minutes were approved.
- **Old Business:**

1) *Neighborhood Watch*

- Contact Cheryl Shiflett or Master Officer Eric Hester for more information.
- Block captains needed for all sections.

2) *Night of Lights*

- \$100.00 spent on this event → more than that taken in for a profit.

3) *Donation to the Civitan Club*

- As discussed at November's meeting: Since the Civitan Club lets NPNA meet for free, NPNA will donate \$200 to their organization. Money needs to be donated.

- **New Business**

1) *Dinosaur Trail at the Museum of Life and Science*

- Julie Ketner Rigby, the vice president for external relations at the MLS, discussed the museum's future plans. These plans include:

1. a 2100 sq. ft. indoor display (late February through Labor Day) on the remaking of the dinosaur trail and the history of the previous trail. This exhibit will include three of the models that will eventually be outdoors
2. the creation of the new dinosaur trail for \$1.49 million (some bond money and some private donations); the new trail will feature 22 dinosaurs (9 species) from the NC Cretaceous Period and will be located above the quarry.
3. the Catch the Wind exhibit (will open in May on 4 acres)
4. the Investigate Health exhibit (will open in September on the second floor)
5. renovations to the Small Science exhibit for youngest visitors (under age 7)
6. additions to the Explore the Wild exhibit
7. Buy a Brick campaign to raise money → bricks will be laid on the trail in 2008. The museum is selling 900 bricks for \$300 each. Bricks will be engraved with the donor's name or organization.

- Julie Ketner Rigby can be contacted at 919-220-5429, x317 (w); 919-220-5575 (f); 919-673-6794 (c) or at julie.rigby@ncmls.org

- Richard ("Dick") Wescott was the creator of the original dinosaurs at the museum. His son, Dusty Wescott, attended the meeting to share stories about and photographs of the original dinosaurs.

- Mike Shiflett will head a committee to restore the brontosaurus that still exists from the original dinosaurs.

- Some responsibilities with restoring the brontosaurus include:

1. maintaining the landscaping around it
2. repairing the fence around it
3. "hardening" it, i.e., keeping vandals away from it
4. liability while restoring it
5. repairing and painting the actual structure of the brontosaurus

- bronto.com also willing to help with the restoration of the brontosaurus

- The MLS leases the land from the city until 2067 so the land belongs to the city while the brontosaurus belong to the MLS.

2) Change of Light

- Organization that encourages people to start using compact fluorescent light bulbs.

- Mark Ambrose will look into having the group come to speak at a meeting and may include an article in a NPNA newsletter.

3) Washington Street Bridge Update (from Mark Ambrose)

- Washington St. between Club Blvd and Ruby St. has been re-striped. Just after re-opening the bridge, the striping had been 2 northbound traffic lanes, with 1 lane disappearing as a useless right turn only lane into a dead-end stub street right before Ruby.

- Our concern had been that the 2-lanes northbound made it seem like Washington was turning into a major thoroughfare as you went north (encouraging higher speeds) and then you crest the ridge of the bridge and in a block you are back to a little neighborhood street.

- The letter we were in the process of drafting would have requested 1 northbound lane with wide shoulders to make the route bike friendly.

- What we got was one northbound lane with a center turn-lane, which is of limited benefit except for folks who live on that block and need to get in their driveways). Not perfect, but an improvement, in that it is less of an incentive for speeding.

- The major good thing is that they did complete a sidewalk from Club Blvd. all the way across the bridge and into the neighborhood, so this is now a reasonable pedestrian route.

4) NPNA Membership

- Current membership is at 60. This is a decline from past years 130 (2003-04), 146 (2002-03), 131 (2001-02), 126 (2000-01), 104 (1999-2000), and 100 (1998-99).

- Lisa Pitts will begin an effort to improve membership in NPNA

5) National Night Out (to be held in August)

- Mark Ambrose will check their website to see what they will send to put this event into motion.
- Some debate over location – should we keep it in one spot or move it around the neighborhood as planned (2007 – Greenwood, 2008 – a northern area of the neighborhood (possibly Herring/ Butner), and 2009 – Higbee/St. Paul)

6) Northgate Park Clean Up

- The next park clean up will be held on March 10

7) Durham Parks and Rec – February Meeting

- Someone from Durham Parks and Rec will attend next month's meeting to give an update on renovations to the park. It has been over two years since someone came for NPNA's input.
- Some ideas to discuss include lighting and the trail around the park.

8) NPNA Newsletter

- The next newsletter will tentatively come out by March 1.
- Lisa Pitts will contact Chris Husack

9) December Fire at 2500 Shenandoah

- This house has been condemned and will be torn down. A new home will be built on the site by a realtor in Nancy Rizzo's office.

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting – February 15, 2007

- Meeting held at 6:30 PM on February 15, 2007 at the Civitan Club on Glendale Avenue
- Neighbors in attendance: Mark Ambrose; Banks Dixon; Jeff Dougan; Nancy Grandjean; Chris Husack; Marian Kaslovsky; Jennifer Kleckner; Cynthia Kulstad; Richard Milward; Henri Prosperi (C.O.D. General Services); Nancy Rizzo; Mike Rogers; Cheryl Shiflett; Mike Shiflett; Beth Timson (Durham Parks and Rec.); John Wood (Cline Design Assoc.)
- Treasurer Report:
 - Balance → \$2191.48 with 61 currently paid memberships
- January meeting minutes were approved.
- **Old Business:**

1) *Welcome Packets (Nancy Grandjean)*

- Discussion of whether or not we want to continue with the program – Nancy Rizzo will deliver packets to the three houses that closed in Northgate Park in January.

2) *Neighborhood Watch*

- Contact Cheryl Shiflett or Master Officer Eric Hester for more information.
- Block captains and telephone tree members needed for all sections.
- Section captains needed for sections 4, 7, and 9.

3) *NPNA Newsletter*

- The newsletter needs a schedule on when it will come out to residents of Northgate Park.
- It currently comes out four times a year → possibly revolve around events such as Trunk or Treat, Night of Lights, Park Clean Up, and the Neighborhood Picnic.

• **Guest Presentation**

- Beth Timson, Assistant Director – Park Planning/Design and Development Division; John Wood, Cline Design – Landscape Architect for the Northgate Park Renovation; and Henri Prosperi, Durham General Services Dept. – Project Manager for the Northgate Park Dog Park Project were in attendance.

1) *Northgate Park Dog Park*

- Construction on the dog park could be done in the next week → fencing will occur later next week.
- The dog park will have improved drainage and timber edging around trees in addition to areas for large dogs and small dogs.
- Dogs will need to be registered → see www.durhamdogpark.org for more information.
- There will be a grand opening when the dog are is ready in March or April, and Dogapalooza will be held in June.

2) *Other Renovations to Northgate Park*

- Additional funding will needed → a request was put in because costs have gone up.
- In 2005, \$518,000 was set aside for the project including studies and the design fee; presently, the project needs \$700,000 that will be asked for from the city's capital budget.
- Duke Energy may do 50/50 on lights; neighbors should identify the darkest areas and prioritize.
- The budget includes security lights for parking. There will also be security lighting (motion lights) at the

picnic shelter.

- The park is in a floodplain so restrooms by the tennis courts can not be moved or renovated → the floor of a new bathroom would have to be elevated seven feet above the current level.
- In 2005, \$518,000 was set aside for the project including studies and the design fee.
- Phase One of the renovations includes a concrete perimeter sidewalk, repairs to the asphalt greenway trail, the playground, and other safety repairs.
- Stream restoration will begin in August with planting in November or December.
- There will be three rain gardens in addition to meandering and benching of the creek. The creek will be re-vegetated with wetland plants.
- The bridge will be re-done in a “boardwalk” style and asphalt will connect the bridge to the greenway.
- The Development Review Board needs to approve a site plan for both phases of the project.
- The five to twelve year old equipment on the playground will be taken out and replaced with composite equipment with a budget of \$70,000 – 80,000 (about half will be spent on the actual equipment with the other half to be spent on safety measures).
- Residents have asked for something to climb on and something that moves.
- Two possible companies for playground equipment are Landscape Structures (<http://www.playlsi.com/>) and Gametime (<http://www.gametime.com/>). These companies offer good warranties and installation in addition to a discount for cities.
- Some places to look for comparable playground equipment are at W.D. Hill Recreation Center on Fayetteville Street and at Central Park.
- Measurements will need to be taken and considered before decided on equipment as swings take up a lot of room.
- For safety, there will be an “impact attenuation surface” made of shredded rubber bonded with emulsion.
- Beth Timson can be contacted at 560-4355, x215 or at Beth.Timson@durhamnc.gov

- **New Business**

- 1) Northgate Park Clean Up*

- The next park clean up will be held on March 10 at 9:00 AM.
- Contact Mike Shiflett at mwshiflett@hotmail.com for more information.

- 2) ABC Permit for Caliente*

- *Caliente* is a membership only nightclub for the 40+ crowd (capacity 200) that will be opening in the shopping center at the corner of Club Blvd. and Roxboro.
- An ABC permit for the club was approved at the PAC-2 meeting earlier this month.
- Concerns about the club were discussed.

- 3) Signs Welcoming Visitors to Northgate Park Neighborhood*

- There was discussion about possibly getting signs to welcome people to Northgate Park Neighborhood → eventually, get four signs (one for each entrance)
- Signs will need to be cleared with the traffic department.

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting – March 15, 2007

- Meeting held at 6:30 PM on March 15, 2007 at the Civitan Club on Glendale Avenue
- Neighbors in attendance: Mark Ambrose; Jeff Dougan; Jennifer Kleckner; Tom Melby; Milan Pham; Nancy Rizzo; Mike Rogers; Cheryl Shiflett; Mike Shiflett; Dan Singer; Beth Timson (Durham Parks and Rec.)
- Treasurer Report:
 - Balance → \$2191.48 with 61 currently paid memberships
 - No new financial activity in the past month.
- February meeting minutes were approved.

- **Old Business:**

1) *Northgate Park Clean Up*

- The last park clean up was held on March 10 beginning at 9:00 AM.
- About a dozen participants worked in Northgate Park, at the beaver pond behind Big Lots, and at the dinosaur.
- Illegal dumping continues to be a problem at the beaver pond.
- Mike Shiflett thanked Keep Durham Beautiful for providing bags, vests, and trash claws.

2) *Playground Equipment Follow Up – Beth Timson, Durham Parks and Rec.*

- Beth Timson is the Assistant Director for Park Planning/Design and Development Division. She can be contacted at 560-4355, x215 or at Beth.Timson@durhamnc.gov
- Ms. Timson shared possible ideas for playground equipment from Landscape Structures and Evos.
- The park has a 2500 sq. ft. area where the 5-12 year old equipment will be replaced.
- Nancy Rizzo shared an e-mail from Nancy Grandjean that expressed concern over spending money on one large item rather than several smaller pieces of equipment.
- Nancy Rizzo shared a packet of information from PlayMart, a company that makes equipment from recycled plastic. This equipment also seemed possible better for disabled children.
- Ms. Timson explained that the trend is now to get a piece of equipment that does more than one thing.
- The total budget is \$85K → about \$40K for the equipment and about \$40K for safety measures.
- The site plan for the playground equipment has been turned in, and Ms. Timson will need to know what neighbors want by next week at the latest.
- After much discussion with only one parent of an infant present and a few parents of older children, the NPNA members in attendance decided to defer to Beth's knowledge of the equipment available.

- NPNA members in attendance agreed that the city would purchase one large piece with the special subsurface not to exceed 2500-3000 sq. ft. which would use most of the allocated \$80 to 85K.
- Those in attendance also decided the equipment should be a primary color.
- NPNA members in attendance authorized Beth to order the one large piece. Beth indicated the park should be able to keep the old equipment that is safe and still useful.

New Business

1) Woman Attacked in the Park

- Discussed the possibility of having parks and rec. evaluate the area to see if bushes can be trimmed back and/or lights or cameras installed in the area from the dog park to the trail to Murray Ave.

2) Plant Swap/ Pot Luck

- The annual plant swap and pot luck will take place at May's meeting.

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting – April 19, 2007

- Meeting held at 6:30 PM on April 19, 2007 at the Civitan Club on Glendale Avenue
- Neighbors in attendance: Tony Alderman, Mark Ambrose, Caitlin Archdeacon, Jeff Dougan, Aura Heine, Chris Husack, Jennifer Kleckner, Richard Milward, Nancy Rizzo, Mike Rogers, Josh Rosenbaum, Julie Seagroves, Cheryl Shiflett, Dan Singer, Kuryat Stoeckl (?).
- Treasurer Report:
 - Balance → \$2191.48 with 61 currently paid memberships
 - No new financial activity in the past month.
- March meeting minutes were approved pending corrections.

• **Old Business:**

1) *Overgrown Foliage Around the Dinosaur*

- No update from Beth Timson on whether or not it was trimmed.
- As per Cheryl Shiflett, the city promotes CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) → shrubs no taller than three feet, trees limbed up to seven feet, etc.

2) *Water Pooling at the Dog Park*

- The park will close when park becomes flooded or excessively muddy.
- There will be a formal opening in May and a grand opening in September (Woofstock).

3) *Playground Equipment*

- No new update on the playground equipment.

4) *Welcome Packets*

- NPNA needs to decide whether or not to distribute the packets which include maps, pictures of the neighborhood, and gift certificates to King's Red and White. If they are not going to be distributed, Cheryl Shiflett will return the gift certificates to King's.
- Suggestions for distribution include neighbors at meetings, neighbors close in proximity to the new neighbors, and neighborhood watch block captains.
- Nancy Rizzo will pull new sales and Cheryl Shiflett will contact Nancy Grandjean to get the packets.

New Business

1) *Newsletter Dates – Chris Husack*

- Newsletters are currently distributed four times per year. This is the schedule promised to advertisers.

- The next newsletter will come out May 25-27 so Chris will need articles no later than May 3. This newsletter will advertise the Elections/ Picnic in June.
- Cheryl Shiflett suggested that we add a canvas hanger to the NPNA sign to get the word out for the May plant swap and pot luck.
- Dates for distribution decided on are the final week of November, February, May, and July. If you wish to submit an article for the newsletter, Chris will need to have it one month prior to the date of distribution.

2) *Membership Drive – Cheryl Shiflett*

- A few years back, NPNA had 120 memberships. NPNA currently has 61 memberships.
- Other neighborhood associations cost \$10-20/ household (or even person) / year so NPNA is one of the cheapest.
- Mark Ambrose brought up the point that it is hard to generate interest in the meetings when there are not programs.
- One suggestion brought up is the idea of value and incentives for members of NPNA. Possible ideas include a discount card for local businesses and membership in the credit union once NPNA moves its account.
- Does a disconnect exist between renters and homeowners? Dan Singer suggested that maybe landlords be contacted to join the association.
- Should NPNA use the GIS map to pinpoint where members live to help target areas for membership.
- Aura Heine suggested that people may not come to meetings because they feel that their concerns are ignored when they bring them up. She brought up the example her friend who wanted to address the use of chemicals in the park, but the city worker did not show up at the meeting.
- Cheryl Shiflett brought up the purpose of NPNA → who people can contact to solve their own problems.

3) *Fines/ Tickets for Dogs Off of Leash – Richard Milward and Aura Heine*

- Richard Milward got a citation from Officer D.W. Brown for having his dog off of the leash in the park. The fine is \$25 and court costs are \$110.
- Other people have been given warnings for the same offense.
- Cheryl Shiflett explained that the leash law is being enforced more since a woman broke her leg after being knocked down by a dog and a small dog was attacked resulting in substantial vet bills.
- When Richard was fined, Aura was with him and the officer asked her nationality. Why did he ask this question?
- Richard and Aura said that two other people have been harassed by this officer and two others have been ticketed.

- When someone has a problem with a particular officer, they should call the police department and ask for the captain of the patrol division. The number for the District Two Substation is 560-4582.

4) *Tree and Street Maintenance*

- Mark Ambrose said that many of the oak trees have heart rot, and neighbors should start thinking about smaller trees to put in their place.
- Cheryl Shiflett explained that if trees are put in the right of way, the city has to approve of the species. Also, the city needs to check on water lines and driveways.
- Mark Ambrose wanted to know if there is a schedule for street pavement maintenance. Cheryl Shiflett suggested that he contact Katie Kalb (560-4326) for information and she can refer him to a person at public works.

5) *Change of Light Campaign – Mark Ambrose*

- Mark Ambrose will put an article in the newsletter about this campaign which encourages renewable energy.
- More information can be found at www.energystar.gov

6) *National Night Out*

- NNO will be held on August 7, 2007.
- Mark Ambrose will get the location from Jeff Dougan and will submit the application.

7) *Expansion of NPNA*

- There is currently a petition to expand NPNA to Delafield or Channing. The by-laws need to be checked to find out what to do in this situation.

8) *Nominating Committee for June Elections*

- The nominating committee needs three people → two members of board/ officers and one not.
- Mark Ambrose and Cheryl Shiflett volunteered to serve on this committee.

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting – May 17, 2007

- Meeting held at 6:30 PM on May 17, 2007 at the Civitan Club on Glendale Avenue. A potluck dinner was held in conjunction with the meeting.
- Neighbors in attendance: Mark Ambrose; Jeremy Deyton; Jeff, Kirsten, and Leo Dougan; Nancy Grandjean; Eleanor Hill; Marian Kaslovsky; Jennifer Kleckner; Goldie Lasa; Nancy Rizzo; Molly Sanford; Cheryl Shiftlett; Ann Woodward
- Treasurer Report:
 - Balance → \$2191.48 with 61 currently paid memberships
 - There is a deposit pending and advertisers need to pay for their newsletter advertisements.

- April meeting minutes were approved pending corrections.

- **Old Business:**

- 1) Newsletter Dates*

- The newsletter should come out on May 25. Nancy Rizzo will check with Chris Husack on this.

- 2) National Night Out - August 7, 2007*

- Mark Ambrose will submit the application for NPNA's NNO.
- Cheryl Shiftlett suggested moving NNO from Greenwood Drive to Highland Avenue. There have been reports of a drug house and prostitutes getting picked up and dropped off between Ellerbee and Lavender.
- Holding NNO there would bring a police presence through a high profile event.
- There was a motion approved to move NNO to Highland Avenue.

- 3) Expansion of NPNA*

- The by-laws of NPNA need to be changed to include Delafield and possibly Channing.
- Jeff Dougan will contact Julie Seagroves to get the boundaries. They will then be written out and submitted to Chris Husack for inclusion in the newsletter.
- After publicizing the expansion, NPNA will extend an invitation for these neighbors to join the association.

New Business

1) Picnic and Elections at the June NPNA Meeting

- The June picnic/elections meeting needs to be held on June 24 from 4-6:30 PM because of Father's Day on June 17.
- A backup date will be handled by the Board of Directors over e-mail.
- Nancy Rizzo will call Parks and Rec. to reserve the shelter by the tennis courts.
- Cheryl Shiflett will bring the ice and horseshoes, Molly Sanford will bring the chicken from Golden Corral (~20% less than last year), Jennifer Kleckner will bring eight two liter bottles of soda.
- Nancy Rizzo will contact Caitlin Archdeacon about the status of the cups, plates, silverware, etc.

2) NPNA Elections/ Nominations

- All positions (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and board members) are a one year position with meetings held on the third Thursday of each month.
- A president should run the meetings, create agendas, communicate with board members, speak for the neighborhood at INC and to the media.
- The vice-president should run the meetings if the president is not in attendance.
- The secretary should record minutes and write all official correspondence to city officials, etc.
- Board members should attend meetings and perform other duties as delegated.
- Cheryl Shiflett proposed that one board member should take on membership recruitment. Molly Sanford volunteered to assist with this position.
- Mark Ambrose and Cheryl Shiflett are members of the nominating committee. They will take nominations before the meeting in June, and nominations will also be open at the meeting in June.
- Nominations so far are as follows:

President → Mark Ambrose

Secretary → Jennifer Kleckner

Treasurer → Mike Rogers

Board Members → Cheryl Shiflett, Nancy Rizzo, and Julie Seagroves

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting – July 26, 2007

- Meeting held at 6:30 PM on July 26, 2007 at the Civitan Club on Glendale Avenue.
- Neighbors in attendance: Mark Ambrose; Line Dempsey; Melissa Harrell; Jennifer Kleckner; Tom Melby; Ashley Morgan; Nancy Rizzo; Mike Rogers; Joel and Aileen Ross; Molly Sanford; Cheryl and Mike Shiflett.
- Treasurer Report:
 - Balance → \$2091.28
 - This balance is not exact as there may be other deposits pending.
- May NPNA meeting minutes and July NPNA board meeting minutes were approved pending corrections.
- Mark Ambrose will type up the June picnic/ meeting minutes as Jennifer Kleckner was not in attendance.
- **Old Business:**

1) *Election Results and Introductions*

- President – Mark Ambrose
- Vice-President – Nancy Rizzo
- Secretary – Jennifer Kleckner
- Treasurer – Susan Brooks
- Board Members – Line Dempsey, Molly Sanford, and Cheryl Shiflett

2) *National Night Out - August 7, 2007 on the 2400 block of Highland (Club to Ellerbee)*

- Cheryl Shiflett is working to use NNO to strengthen and recruit for Neighborhood Watch – she will print a map of Northgate Park and section captains will wear a name tag with their section number on it. Attendees can then find out what section they live in to network with their section captain and other neighbors within their section.
- Cheryl will also set up an easel board with a list of suspicious behavior that would warrant a call to 911.
- The police will deliver cones to Mike and Cheryl Shiflett to block off the street.
- Mark Ambrose publicized this event in the newsletter and will make a flyer for newsletter deliverers to post.
- Attendees should bring a hot weather snack to share.
- Mark Ambrose will bring iced tea and ice.
- Chris Husack will bring homemade lemonade and limeade.
- Cheryl and Mike Shiflett will bring paper products and will check if more cups are needed.

- Nancy Rizzo is calling to check on borrowing tables from the church or the Civitan Club.
- Mark Ambrose will check with Nancy Grandjean about distributing welcome packets.

3) *Northgate Park Clean Up*

- The next park clean up will be on Saturday, September 8. Park clean ups are held on the second Saturday in March, June, September, and December.
- The city will deliver free mulch if we want it for the clean up. It could possibly be used around the crepe myrtles and other decorative plants, but we might want to hold off until the park renovations and stream restoration are complete.
- Mike Shiflett will e-mail Mark Ambrose with the names of contact people for park renovations.

4) *What do we want to accomplish this year?*

- Tom Melby – help plant more trees at the street, encourage neighbors to garden more (maybe get help from local nurseries such as Red Mill), help seniors/ disabled rake leaves, poison ivy is an issue in the park.
- Joel Ross – kudzu is growing in Rock Quarry Park, use businesses at Northgate Mall for advertising in newsletters, work with ECWA for expertise on native plants.
- Nancy Rizzo and Jennifer Kleckner – develop a card for members of NPNA to get discounts at local businesses.
- Mark Ambrose and Nancy Rizzo – add more lights around and in the park.
- Mike Rogers – new signs for the park, continue work on the brontosaurus, high grass and bamboo near the dinosaur.
- Ashley Morgan – people moving back into the apartments on Channing, windows are boarded up but lights are on → concern about squatters living there.
- Mark Ambrose – keep an eye on the land for sale on Club

New Business

1) *INC Hero Awards*

- Nominations are due on 08/04/07.
- Cheryl Shiflett suggests Chris Husack who is then nominated by Line Dempsey and seconded by Tom Melby.
- The president needs to write up a description of this person. Cheryl Shiflett will write up and Mark Ambrose will sign off on it.
- Next year, NPNA needs to revisit this award in May or earlier. Put a call for nominations in the newsletter at the beginning of the year.

2) Newsletter Delivery

- More volunteers needed. Contact Susan Brooks if you can help.

3) Case Foundation Grants

- Information can be found at www.casefoundation.org
- NPNA may be able to apply for one of these grants next year.

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Board Meeting – July 11, 2007

- Members in attendance: Mark Ambrose, Susan Brooks, Jennifer Kleckner, Nancy Rizzo, Molly Sanford, and Dan Singer.
- Agenda Items were as follows:
 - 1) (Re) Introductions
 - Mark collected board members' public contact info. for use in the newsletter and private contact info. for internal use.
 - 2) Newsletter Schedule
 - The newsletter currently comes out four times/ year.
 - There was discussion about increasing the number of newsletters to five or six times/ year, but concerns were raised about cost and distribution.
 - The next newsletter will include articles on the history of Northgate Park, NPNA Election Results, National Night Out (08/07/07), the NPNA August meeting which will have a speaker from Clean Energy Durham, a calendar of meeting dates, earlier trash pick up times, next park workday.
 - Mark will have newsletters to Susan on 07/25/07, and Susan will send an e-mail for volunteers to deliver them.
 - 3) National Night Out
 - NNO will be in the 2400 block of Highland Avenue from 6-9 PM on 08/07/07.
 - NPNA will provide plates, utensils, drinks, cups, napkins, and ice, and neighbors should bring a covered dish to share.
 - Nancy Rizzo will call the church and the Civitan Club to see if we can borrow four long tables with two for food, one for materials, and one extra.
 - 4) Leaf Mulch Offer from the City of Durham
 - Mark Ambrose will contact Mike Shiflett to see if we can use any for a neighborhood project.
 - 5) Case Foundation Grants
 - Deadline is 08/08/07 → must be a project that shows “innovative ideas that involve diverse groups of people.”
 - Mark Ambrose will put a blurb in the newsletter and promote this grant on the listserv.
 - Molly Sanford suggested that the theatre near Compare Foods could possibly benefit from this

grant by either becoming a second run theatre. Susan Brooks suggested that the theatre could become a mixed use art space.

6) What We Would Like to Accomplish This Year (names correspond with those who suggested the idea)

- Finish park renovations (Dan Singer)
- Book club (Molly Sanford) – Molly will send an e-mail to Mark to put this idea in the newsletter.
- Street conditions (Dan Singer)
- Positive ways of relating to each other (Susan Brooks) → possibly helping elderly/disabled neighbors, a neighbors helping neighbors match up.
- Community building in a diverse community (Mark Ambrose)
- Boost membership in NPNA (Mark Ambrose) → attach envelopes to the newsletter with Susan's address on the return address.
- Bird count/ watching (Molly Sanford)
- NPNA website → Line Dempsey will set up and NPNA will reimburse him for the cost of the domain. Possibly have blurb in newsletter and on listserv asking for pictures.
- Arrange for more than one officer to be able to sign checks for the NPNA account.
- Neighborhood yard sale on October 13 → Mark will put in newsletter with Jennifer Kleckner as the contact person.
- Meeting topics will include park update (Mark Ambrose), plants/gardening (Nancy Rizzo), crime prevention/ landscape design, visits from politicians/ city council members, plant swap in the Spring, potluck in October.

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting – August 16, 2007

- Meeting held at 6:30 PM on August 16, 2007 at the Civitan Club on Glendale Avenue.
- Neighbors in attendance: Gail Albergo; Mark Ambrose; Fred Broadwell; Jennifer Kleckner; Nancy Kneepkens; Page McCullough; Tom Melby; Bernadette Page; Natalie Picone-Louro; Nancy Rizzo; Molly Sanford; Cheryl and Mike Shiflett; Andrea Stephens; Michelle Williams; Beth Yoder
- Treasurer Report:
 - Balance → \$2615.62
 - Most recent expenses : \$171.76 for printing last newsletter and \$10.66 for address labels for membership drive.
- Current NPNA memberships: 65
- June and July NPNA meeting minutes were approved.
- **Old Business:**

1) National Night Out Report

- Cheryl Shiflett reported that 70 people attended NNO. 27 of them were block/section captains for Neighborhood Watch.

2) Northgate Park Clean Up and Renovations

- The next park clean up will be on Saturday, September 8. Volunteers should meet at 8:00 AM at the picnic shelters. This clean up will be limited to picking up trash due to renovations in the park.
- Park clean ups are held on the second Saturday in March, June, September, and December.
- Mike Shiflett and Mark Ambrose reported on the site plan for renovations to the park. These renovations include
 - a. Improved parking: Existing parking in the area north and south of the pavilion are going to be converted back into grass and planting areas with parking (16 spaces) to be incorporated between the pavilion and the tennis courts. A few remaining spaces will remain off Elgin and the main parking lot across from the church is going to be repaved and painted. Two trees that take up parking spots in the last parking lot would be eliminated to make more room for the trees there to grow.
 - b. Renovations to the pavilion and the picnic shelter.
 - c. All of the existing stone pillars will remain but not be repaired or repointed at this point in time.
 - d. Incorporation of extensive plantings and area gardens. No tree loss is seen although a few bushes and smaller trees are either missing or not surveyed on the site plan.
 - e. Two small 'grass bowls' created by the steep grade over by the pavilion will be created with small cement platforms (no amphitheater).
 - f. The urban trail will be widened and improved to six feet from Lavender to West Club. A

circular sidewalk (also 6' wide) will meander along Acadia and Elgin in between trees and be constructed so that it should not affect the tree roots of the mature trees there.

g. Additional 'paths' will be created to the sidewalk along West Club and two entrances along Glendale (one by the school and the other further up).

h. The NC STATE Stream restoration project is mentioned numerous times particularly in regards to the replacement of the pedestrian bridge over Ellerbe and the railings where the creek runs under both Lavender and West Club.

i. The existing children's playground will be moved closer to Elgin/Acadia with the new playground equipment (old equipment will be removed). It is unclear from the plan which playground equipment has been chosen.

- Cheryl Shiflett noted that she would like to see different plant materials in some spots but she said that they were minor in scope and should not be too difficult to have the contractor change to more viable or compatible species for our park (she should be able to comment further).
- The stream restoration, which is due to start in December, was cited, but NOT included per se as part of the site plan. The stream restoration plans, being a state-level mitigation project, do not have to go through the approval that the park renovations do.
- Cheryl Shiflett pointed out that there is more lighting on Acadia due to a recommendation from Master Officer Eric Hester.

3) NPNA Website

- Line Dempsey has designed a website for NPNA. The address is <http://www.ngpark.org/>
- NPNA Board Members should check their contact information and e-mail Line at line@fastcoaching.com with any corrections.
- Line needs content and feedback for this website. Northgate Park residents should e-mail him any articles, pictures, etc.

New Business

1) Neighborhood Yard Sale

- The neighborhood yard sale will be held on Saturday, October 13 from 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM.
- Jennifer Kleckner will call the *Herald Sun*, the *News and Observer/ Durham News*, and the *Independent* to get costs for advertising.
- Other advertising will be done electronically via the listserv and possibly Craig's List.
- Mark Ambrose will publicize the event on the listserv to get neighbors to participate.

2) Neighborhood Beautification/ Neighborhood Gardener's Club – Tom Melby

- Tom Melby has 30 Japanese flowering apricot trees that he received from Camelia Forest Nursery. E-mail him at tmmelby@gmail.com if interested in obtaining one or more of these trees.
- Tom also suggested that a gardener's club be formed as a branch of NPNA. He will use the listserv to advertise this opportunity for residents.
- Cheryl Shiflett suggests that the neighborhood have a garden tour as a fundraiser.

3) Presentation – Judy Kincaid from Clean Energy Durham

- To calculate your household's emission of carbon dioxide, consider your use of electricity, natural gas, and gasoline.
 - 1 kilowatt hour of electricity = 2 lb. carbon dioxide
 - 1 therm. of natural gas = 12 lb. carbon dioxide
 - 1 gallon of gasoline = 20 lb. carbon dioxide
- Compact fluorescent bulbs use 75% less electricity and last five times as long.
- Front loading washing machines require less drying time, less water, and less electricity.
- Turn off electronics instead of letting them go on standby. Also, turn off power strip when not using electronics.
- Turn down hot water heater from 140 degrees Fahrenheit to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Weatherize your house with additional insulation and caulking. Also, check your ductwork as leaks can lead to energy loss.
- Install a solar water heater → \$5400 (initial cost) - \$2700 (tax credit) = \$2700 (final cost) Annual savings \$288 with a raised value on house of \$2800.
- Tankless water heaters are the second best option when used with gas. Presently, there is a \$300 tax credit for these water heaters.
- CED will help train and provide resources for a neighborhood energy committee. For example, they will help to identify roofs that would be appropriate candidates for solar water heaters.
- NPNA can buy fluorescent bulbs in bulk from *Not Just Paper*. It was suggested that NPNA sell fluorescent bulbs at Night of Lights for a fundraiser.
- Members in attendance were given a magnet and a tracking form to determine their household's monthly carbon dioxide output. They also were asked to sign a pledge form to reduce their carbon dioxide output.
- More information and tips can be found at www.cleanenergydurham.org

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Meeting – 11/15/07

- Meeting held at 6:30 PM on November 15, 2007 at the Civitan Club on Glendale Avenue.
- Neighbors in attendance: Mark Ambrose, Susan Brooks, Line Dempsey, Jennifer Kleckner, Whitney May, Mike Shiflett, Mike Simpson (Code Enforcement Officer from the City of Durham), and Beth Yoder.
- Treasurer Report:
 - Balance → ~ \$2944.99 with the last expense being for the yard sale advertising.
 - There are currently 93 members in NPNA. Mark Ambrose has put a membership form in the latest edition of the newsletter.
- October NPNA meeting minutes were approved with a correction made under the Neighborhood Yard Sale section of the minutes.

- **Old Business:**

1) *NPNA Newsletter*

- Board members should review the draft of the newsletter that came to them via e-mail.
- Chris Husack will get the newsletter to the printer by Monday, 11/19.
- Susan Brooks will put out a call for volunteers to help deliver the newsletters. Deliveries will take place no later than December 3.

2) *Halloween Event on Elgin Street*

- Many people came through the 2700 block of Elgin Street for the festivities, but not many people set up tables for the event.
- A suggestion was made that next year the event be held in addition to a Trunk or Treat at the park.
- Pam Gutlon requested some funding to help pay for the fire dancer that entertained that night. A motion was raised and passed to give Pam \$100.00 from the NPNA account. Susan Brooks will encourage Pam to join NPNA. Mike Shiflett also donated \$60.00 to help pay for the fire dancer.

3) *The Park*

- The next park clean up will be on Saturday, December 8 at 10:00 AM to prepare for the Night of Lights.

4) *Night of Lights*

- The Night of Lights will be held on Sunday, December 9 from 2:00-5:00 PM.
- Mark Ambrose has purchased 600 votive candles.
- Line Dempsey can donate two gallons of sand, and Mike Shiflett can donate birdseed if we would need to substitute it for sand.

- Mark Ambrose has purchased fluorescent light bulbs to sell at the event. So far, he has 48-60 watt equivalent bulbs and 60-40 watt equivalent bulbs.

- Mike Shiflett made a motion for NPNA to spend \$100 on bulbs to sell. Line Dempsey seconds the motion and it is passed.

5) NPNA Website: <http://www.ngpark.org>

- Send content (especially photographs) and/or feedback to Line Dempsey at line@fastcoaching.com

- Line Dempsey would like for Chris Husack to e-mail the newsletter articles to him so he can cut and paste them onto the website.

- There are links to previous newsletters available on the website and Mark Ambrose also puts them on Yahoo Groups.

• **New Business**

1) *Family Fare Proposal*

- The old BP gas station/ convenience store and the vacant pawn shop at the corner of Club and Roxboro is getting torn down. A new BP Family Fare gas station/ convenience store is being built in its place.

- The mechanic currently located in the building will be moving to the old Meineke by Autozone.

- The new gas station/ convenience store will look like the one at Broad and Markham.

- It will include a retention pond in the back of the building and a green space as a buffer zone between it and nearby homes.

- There needs to be a change in zoning as the developer, Lee Barnes, wants to have twelve gas pumps (two at each of the six stations).

- Mike Shiflett suggested that NPNA get a written agreement from Lee Barnes as the law does not make pictures binding.

2) *Eatery Explorations*

- Mark Ambrose will put out a request on the listserve for suggested places and dates.

3) *January Meeting – Bill Anderson*

- Bill Anderson will speak at the next meeting on the Beaver Pond Business Association and “Can You Spare a Change?”

• **Speaker – Mike Simpson from Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services.**

- Mike Simpson is a code enforcement officer who works to correct violations through education before fines.
- He works on safety concerns in section 10 of the Durham City Code such as garbage cart/bin out on non-collection day, downtown cart/bin out after 10AM, illegal dump/littering/bags on ground, no required dumpster (business), recyclables mixed with garbage, yard waste mixed with garbage, sweeping leaves onto the street, vehicle scattering debris, etc.
- His department worked with Neighborhood Improvement Services to create a “landlord training manual.”
- If someone is in violation of the code, he/she will receive two warnings and then a \$50.00 fine.
- Whoever pays a bill to the city (water, yard waste, bulky item, etc.) is the one charged in a landlord/tenant situation.
- When the violator receives a letter from the city, he/she has ten days to appeal it before it is charged to the utility bill. Non-payment may result in the violator’s water getting shut off.