

Minutes for Trinity Park Neighborhood Association

May 1, 2013 7:30 pm

George Watts School Media Center*

Welcome and introductions

- Jody White
- Rachel Raney
- Julia Borbely-Brown
- Katherine Jordan
- T.J. McDermott
- Pam Swinney
- Marc Phillips
- Bunmi Fatoey-Matory
- John Swansey
- Jeff Porter
- John Hodges-Copple
- Berry McMurray
- Philip Azar
- Eugene Brown (City Council)

Review minutes of the February/March, 2013 Board Meetings

- Neither February nor March minutes are ready at this time for a vote.

Traffic, Bike and Pedestrian (Rachel Raney)

- May is bike month. May 8th is bike to school day. Martin Steinmeyer (sp) was approached to be chair of Traffic Committee going forward.

Urban Planning (John Swansey)

- **McPherson Hospital** (Tax Incentives Request)

TPNA is on record approving the McPherson Project, but public incentives/support have been requested from the developer. City is waiting for the County to commit before proceeding, and a breakdown of amounts of commitment need to be established.

City work session meeting 5/6 and Preservation Durham is attending, plus TP has crafted a statement without specific dollar amounts, but general approval. Developers appear to be at a point of walking away from their investment without public support. TP Resident Eugene Brown (city councilman) spoke to the city research that has gone into the project and it is understood that the developers are ready to walk away from their investment without this public support. City is interested in adding more hotel rooms in order to lure more conference business in the future.

John Swansey Proposed: motion to board that TPNA give its approval to these requested tax incentives in an overall manner with no mention of support amounts or

percentages between city and county incentives. All in favor except Rachel Raney abstaining.

Trinity Park Tree Committee (Shelley Dekker)

38 trees were planted along Trinity Park streets this fall/winter. For the third year in a row, the Trinity Park Foundation provided \$1000 toward tree planting efforts within the neighborhood. This year, the tree committee focused on planting in the northern part of the neighborhood which has been severely lacking in street trees, specifically in the 1400 block of Watts and the 900 and 1000 blocks of North Buchanan. Another focus block was the 900 block of West Trinity Avenue. The four species of trees planted--overcup oaks, blackgums, trident maples, and Chinese pistache--have all shown themselves to be tough, drought-tolerant street trees in Durham.

We continue to lose dozens of mature street trees a year, mainly due to age.

However, our challenges are many and include vandalism, insects, root-cutting by landscaping and building contractors, and even neighbors taking down City-owned trees or refusing to allow planting because the trees do not fit in with their personal landscape plans.

This year we hope to ask those whose properties have been enhanced by new street trees in the past few years to give back by reimbursing the Foundation for the cost of their trees, and we will continue to identify places within the neighborhood where we should focus our planting efforts.

Other Items

Charitable Donations (2013 Giving Proposal)

- New TPNA Contribution Policy was generally approved with no suggestions other than changes in dates. Application deadline moved to Sept. 1 which leaves time so board has time to review before Oct. board meeting.

TPNA Web Site (Guidelines and additional Admins)

- Marc Phillips is requesting access to the website as new part of the web team. A WordPress plugin is desired to allow people to check and see if an address is associated with a membership or not (no names displayed). Suggestion was made to just simply post the list of addresses, but the upkeep/maintenance of the current TPNA member Google Drive spreadsheet is already not as productive as it could be and would require more frequent updating if displayed in this format. It was suggested that we streamline the membership renewals by only allowing one year memberships with a calendar year renewal cycle. Apparently other neighborhood associations do this already and still struggle with low membership ratios.

More traffic is desired in general, especially to help the corporate sponsors. Suggestion made to resurrect the news and communication committee for further discussion.

Newsletter (Next edition deadline and content)

- Deadline for next newsletter (June edition) was not agreed upon.

Bunmi made a suggestion that we approach long time and/or multi-generation residents to provide stories of their experiences in TP.

INC (Durham) Report (Philip Azar)

- Discussion of how to work with the current legislative changes being planned at the state level, and what if anything TPNA should do to lend its voice to the INC organization. Apparently changes/votes are happening so fast that there is no way to report back to the TPNA board in a timely fashion.

Philip Azar updated the wording of John Swansey's proposed motion:

"Resolved that the TPNA delegate is authorized to vote in opposition to bills originating in the NC legislature that seek to limit local government control over matters such as zoning, water, and other environmental issues where the speed of the NC legislature is too fast relative to INC and TPNA schedules to allow bill-specific authority provided that the delegate promptly report to the board all votes undertaken pursuant to this resolution."

- INC Traffic Safety and Speeding Committee with Philip Azar as chair. Philip was looking for guidance and is going to the TPNA traffic committee for guidance and support.
- Should the board support DOST resolutions for Farmland Preservation and DOST Matching Grants? Farmland Preservation resolution (typically ~\$800K) not supported since the actual preservation site would not be known. Matching Grants (typically ~\$70K) were supported and TP has received money out of this fund in the past..

John Swansey Proposed: motion to board to support the Dost Matching Grants (\$70K) which passed.

Dates to Note:

- May 18 – Durham Symphony Concert (5pm in Trinity Park)
- May 19 – TPNA night at the Durham Bulls
- June 5 – Next TPNA Board meeting (**Watts St. Elementary cafeteria**)