

Minutes for Trinity Park Neighborhood Association

August 7, 2013 7:30 p.m.

George Watts School Cafeteria

Present

- Jody White (President)
- Rachel Raney (Vice President)
- Julia Borberly-Brown (Past President)
- Berry McMurray (Secretary)
- Heather Wilson (Board)
- Pam Swinney (Board)
- Tempe Morgan (Board)
- TJ McDermott (Board)
- Bunmi Fatoye Matory (Board)
- Jeffrey Porter (Board)

Absent

- Germaine Brewington (Treasurer)
- Marc Phillips (Board)
- John Swansey (Board)
- Katherine Jordan (Board)

Meeting Minutes

June Minutes approved, Julia Borberly-Brown made motion to accept and Berry seconded. All approved. No meeting in July.

Committee Reports

Communications - Marc Phillips

Website (trinitypark.org)

- 532 visits last month
- 444 unique visitors
- Top targets – Home / Connect / Map / Local Links / Events
- **Next Steps: Add “FAQ” section for Main Street updates, Canker Worm tips, Parking permits, etc**

Twitter

- No tweets since Nov 2012
- Password / contact e-mail to be updated
- **Next Steps: Increase activity starting with re-tweets of local events**

Facebook

- 232 members
- Anyone can post here

- Events usually posted by event owners
- **Not planning on focusing on this for now since we have the website**

Google+

- You can't make me use Google+

Welcome Wagon Revival

- No progress yet

Meeting discussion: More web site features coming. Traffic seems to be growing and people have been using the "Contact TPNA" page (<http://trinitypark.org/contact-tpna/>). Majority of contact relates to people trying to live in TP.

Community Building – Jeff Porter

Finance - Germaine Brewington

The month of July report reflects minimal activity. The biggest transaction was a deposit for two sponsorship/ad receipts in the amount of \$1,050. Total expenses this month included \$86.83. Included in the \$86.83 is a \$10.00 account analysis fee. This fee is new so I need to check on the reason it started this month. I will keep you posted.

Other than these transactions, no other transactions occurred.

Membership – Jody White

Membership is currently at 255 households in TP out of ~1481 (an increase of 3 memberships over June), **17%** of households. Goal for 2013 is again 20% of households. This means we need 52 more households to join this year.

Newsletter - Meredith Newlin, Editor

Dan Jewell, Sponsor Liason

SEPTEMBER 2013

Current Trinity Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter agenda (from Meredith)

Articles	Writers	Suggested Word Count	Submitted
Conversations with Our Neighbors (Interview with Dan Jewell)	Bunmi Fatoye-Matory	1,000-1,500	Yes
Neighborhood Artists	Julia Borbely-Brown	300-500	
Elf article	Jennifer Slade	300-500	
Halloween? 300-500	Jeff Porter	300-500	

Final news re: McPherson vote	Katherine Jordan	300-500	
Safe Routes to School	Matthew Palmer/Rachel Raney/Martin Steinmeyer	400-600	
An article on the Reality Center	Susan Jakes	400-600	

*Marc has also offered to add a story about obtaining neighborhood parking permits if there is Room

PERC Clean-up - Philip Azar

Traffic – Rachel Raney

Trees – Shelley Dekker

In the 12 month period between 8/12 and 8/13 Durham Urban Forestry performed removals at the following locations within the Trinity Park Neighborhood:

Note from Marc Phillips: This may already be common knowledge to others, but I was surprised by the number of removals until I realized that "removals" could apply to "a couple branches" and didn't always mean "take down tree". Not sure what the %'s are on that but I know that the "removal" at 1008 Minerva (my house) by the City was just cutting down a dead branch (after a nearby one fell on our car). The tree overall remains.

- 8/13/12: 229 Monmouth
- 8/14/12: 228 Monmouth
- 8/14/12: 809 Watts
- 8/22/12: 1403 Watts
- 9/5/12: 900 Block Lamond
- 9/11/12: 1311 Dollar
- 10/9/12: Trinity Presbyterian Church
- 10/24/12: 920 Buchanan
- 11/2/12: 1201 Watts
- 11/14/12: 1009 W. Trinity
- 12/12/12: 807 W. Trinity
- 12/13/12: Green and Watts
- 12/18/12: 1101 Englewood
- 1/2/13: 910 W. Trinity
- 1/3/13: 1100 W. Markham
- 2/14/13: 1006 Gloria
- 2/27/13: 1023 Buchanan

3/16/13: 1008 Minerva
4/17/13: 1013 Gloria
4/22/13: "Gregson" (no address noted)
5/30/13: 1001 Gloria (Gregson side)
4/30/13: 907N. Gregson
5/2/13: 1001 Trinity @ Gregson
5/6/13: Trinity Presbyterian Church
5/8/13: 407 N. Gregson
5/9/13: 1001 Dacian (Gregson side)
6/7/13: Gregson at Gloria
7/19/13: Dacian at Gregson

Finally, we took down 2 along the Dacian side of Watts Elementary and 3 along the Minerva side of DSA last week which were not closed out yet.

The total number of locations/trees comes to roughly 33. I am not sure if these trees were all mature or over-mature specimens.

The stump of the trident maple at Gregson @ Minerva was left when the Transportation Department placed cross-walk signage along Gregson, and the tree's canopy completely blocked the view of the sign. In the wake of a troubling series of accidents along that stretch of roadway between motorists and pedestrians, the tree was removed, but follow-up to the stump was not performed (it will be).

Willful Destruction/Vandalism: One overcup oak was broken off at the base along DSA's campus, but this may have been unintentional. There was also one incident where evidence strongly suggests that one property owner on the 700 block of Buchanan directed his landscape crew to intentionally destroy an established young oak tree in front of a neighboring property (paid for by the Durham Council of Garden Clubs and installed by the City). Durham's City Attorney's office has indicated that there is not enough evidence to pursue criminal penalties against this individual.

On the bright side, DSA will be partnering with UF to continue to replace trees along its campus perimeter. This will extend to the Duke St. side and further along Minerva. We anticipate up to 20 new trees going in this planting season.

The bare root overcup oak trees that were purchased from Powel Nursery (a new supplier) last year were very slow to leaf out, and roughly half of them never did. The dead will be replaced this year with trees from another nursery (with a much better track-record) at no additional cost to the NA.

Canker worms had a good spring in 2013, defoliating many trees in the neighborhood. To sign up for upcoming workshops, folks can send an email to durhamcankerwormcontrol@gmail.com.

The 3-year cost-share agreement between the TPNA and Durham Urban Forestry has reached its end. Given the continued volume of trees coming out of the neighborhood, consideration should be given to extending this partnership. If cost is a concern, the commitment may be scaled back to whatever level is comfortable.

As a final note, along with help with canker worm issues, I'd like to enlist support for all of the newly planted trees in the neighborhood which are going to need periodic inputs over the next few years. Through the course of our City/County Strategic Planning initiative, trees have been given a boost, since they combine several key goals. As a result, the County has seen fit to actually fund some initiatives, which we are trying to group-think our way toward putting into motion. One idea I would like to start some tentative steps toward is establishing a "tree-keepers" type of program for parts of Durham where young trees have been planted. There are similar programs in communities across the US, the closest I'm aware of is in Richmond, Va. It entails individuals getting trained and certified in pruning theory, method and technique, and then they are set loose to help our young neighborhood street trees grow past their awkward stage where their low branches are in the way. If there are enough interested parties, I will carry the initiative forward to the next phase.

Urban Planning – Katherine Jordan, John Swansey

McPherson/ Concord Hotel Project:

The County Commissioners voted 4-1 to approve a \$400,000 grant for Concord Hospitality's Extended Stay Marriott Hotel at their June 24th meeting. The amount represents the cost of saving the facade. It was tenuous till the end and would have been a lost cause if not for the perseverance of Commissioners Reckhow and Jacobs and the willingness of Commissioners Howerton and Page to find terms they were comfortable supporting.

Several TP participants have emailed Commissioners to thank them for their support. (thanks!)

The developer told several of the UP Committee members that if things move smoothly with the City Council and their lenders, they can start construction by end of year. However the next big hurdle is the City Council vote on financial incentives.

Our committee has had some preliminary conversations with the developer and city officials, and this item will likely come up for a vote later this fall, due to City Council calendaring, so we should have time to prepare. It is not clear exactly what amount and terms the developer will be asking the City Council for, or whether Council support is a sure thing. There is still much uncertainty, so we must stay focused closely, and use our

contacts to stay up to date. Katherine and Julia continue to be primary contacts to principals, but many others are using their contacts to get more information.

Preservation Durham is planning a member's only "Hidden Durham" tour at McPherson, tentatively scheduled for August 20th from 5-7pm. This may be a chance to get people through the building and rally support for letters to City Council and attendance at the meeting. Exact details need to be confirmed. It would be ideal if some TPNA board members can attend. - please contact Wendy Hillis at Preservation Durham.

The McPherson project is taking the majority of UPC energy right now, and there have been no meetings except those focused on McPherson. When we all get back from vacation, I will send notices to all the current and prospective/volunteered members, and attempt to reinstate regular meetings with the larger, revitalized group, with the help of new members .

Submitted 7 Aug, 2013
John D. Swansey

Other Business

Community building-Neighborhood Olympics

Looking at next Olympics for Watts Hillendale, OWD, Us and Trinity Heights, Forest Hills, Morehead Hills. Meeting in the next week or two for more discussion. Fall weekends are busy, with Oct 5th world beer fest, and Duke fall break the following week.

Membership report

Suggestion for putting out signs reminding dues are due, and to market TPNA

Report/discussion on Storage of TPNA items

Lowest non CC is \$50 and \$125ish for CC. Basically how should we go forward? Ask for someone to host all of it, but concern is not just the storage, but easy access and retrieval of items. Maybe go forward to ask local houses of worship?

Watts Baptist
Beth El
Trinity Ave Pres
etc.?

Trees

Foundation wants to continue three year program but no money.

Canker works will get focus from county now. We will not be selling kits this year.

Duke Alert System

Question about alert system from Duke and if TP residents can sign up. Leslie Granage would know more about this.

Events

Date for Luminaria was brought up by Heather Wilson and discussed but no proposal for date.

INC (InterNeighborhood Council) report

INC is looking for support on a resolution related to expanding the Cleveland-Holloway local historic district, as well as a cell phone tower resolution. Apparently there is another effort to revitalize the DDF building/site, but has been put on hold at this time to gather sufficient information for presentation.

Reports from INC Traffic Committee, but no proposal or resolution. There is also an effort to hold a neighborhood night in Central Park, and the board is being asked to give support.

No detailed discussion was held on these items other than brief comments about DDF and having a presentation about new plan.