

## **TPNA Board Meeting Minutes October 2, 2013**

Present: Julia Borbely-Brown, Jody White, Marc Phillips, Rachel Raney, John Swansey, TJ McDermott, Germaine Brewington, Heather Wilson, Pam Swinney, Philip Azar

Absent: Bunmi Fatore Matory, Tempe Wilson, Katherine Jordan, Jeffrey Porter, Berry McMurray

### **Guest John Tallmadge, Triangle Transit attended to speak about increased bus service along Duke and Gregson Streets.**

TT: Thanks to the Transit Tax that passed last year, TT is beginning to increase bus service around the city. Expanded service begins October 12<sup>th</sup>, between noon and 6:30p, on the busiest corridors (Fayetteville Road, South Square Mall, etc). This should alleviate crowding, and more frequency means more riders. Route 1 Extension will only go to Northgate Mall. The vacant lot on Club (old dry cleaner) has restrictions on the property because of the PERC issue. Owner communicates thru her attorney, but seems interested in working with Triangle Transit. Six months minimum to work out details. If asphalt isn't strong enough, might have to put additional layers or concrete. That would extend the period to a year or more. Assuming TT gets property wants to work with neighborhood on ideas for landscaping, signage etc. But in the meantime, TT proposes that the buses coming North on Duke take a left on Club, left onto Buchanan, left on Englewood, left on Watts, right on Club, then right on Gregson to return back downtown... Email has been sent out via neighborhood listserve alerting TP residents to changes, flyers on doors of blocks where buses will now pass. But TT has come to the meeting to hear specific concerns about the increases service and turning the buses around on the north end of our neighborhood.

Question: What was the issue with the mall?

Mall had previous problems with bus stop at that location. TT made it clear they didn't want a stop just turnaround but they said no regardless. Afterwards TT looked at many alternatives to turn around off of Club but most were not ideal with the 25 minute roundtrip schedule.

Question: Will the route be shortened?

Route 1A continues up Club to Hillandale. These are additional trips for route 1B. So these additional buses will only turnaround every half hour.

Resident Tina: I got a flyer, appreciates the information. Delighted about the opportunity to use the PERC lot for bus stop, but unsure if it will be appropriate due to weight limitations.

Question: Also PERC isn't completely finished. What's plan if the PERC site doesn't work at all?

TT says if that happens it will be communicated, and alternative plans discussed with neighborhood before any decisions made.

Question: Could this be an opportunity to improve conditions for pedestrians that cross Club Blvd mid-block (from the Mall to the bus stop, dangerously) with these changes in service.

TT: Good idea, we'll make sure this gets discussed.

Conversation ensues about re-opening up dialog with Northgate Mall about the buses turnaround there, a possible stop, etc.

Question: Bus stops on East side of Duke Street have no sidewalks, no shelters, etc. Can TT get involved in pushing for crosswalks, more safety features, etc?

TT: Study about to launch about safety and efficiency re: stops along Route 1. Also talking with city more (BPAC), etc. about infrastructure.

Reminder: Continuous school zone along Gregson from Markham Avenue to Morgan, 25 mph in AM and PM, please alert drivers.

Guest is thanked for presentation and leaves. Business portion of meeting commences.

## **September 2013 Minutes**

**Marc Philips moves to approve minutes, Rachel seconds, approved.**

### **Committee reports, questions?**

- **Treasurer's Report – Germaine Brewington**

Treasurer's Report: No activity in September (expenses or revenue). Projected actuals thru end of year look pretty good, even without \$3000 for 2013 Garden Tour. 10K in income, 11K+ in expenses, but some donations cleared last year. Not really in the hole, breaking even basically. For 2014 we should have reserves of 5K, could donate more (to foundation?). Budget needs to be approved by December.

- **Community Building – Jeff Porter**

Heather Wilson: Dec 15 now official date for Luminaria. Going to look into horse drawn carriage, and students helping with lights. Question about what non-profit should receive proceeds from Luminaria.

Other: Community Building says Halloween planning going well.

- **Membership – Jody White**

Membership is currently at 255 households in TP out of ~1482, 17% of households. Goal for 2013 is again 20% of households. This means we need 52 more households to join this year.

- **Urban Planning – John Swansey**

John Swansey says the Concord Hotel folks have submitted their application for a building permit, which is under review at city now. John going to look at them as well... This is good news, could be starting construction soon.

Regarding the fence request from last week, Urban Planning committee not involved officially. But in the process discovered that Trinity Park was not on the notification list for these requests. We've now requested to get back on the list.

And: two new volunteers for urban planning committee. John recommends the board approve Frank Criglar of Watts Street and Jack Daly of Knox Street. John hopes to reconvene regular meetings of the Urban Planning Committee.

Marc: Can the committee get too big?

John: No, many projects need many volunteers

**Jody moves to approve new members, Heather seconds. All approve.**

- **Traffic – Martin Steinmeyer**

Traffic Committee we heard from.

- **Trees – Shelley Dekker**

The Trinity Park Foundation is committed to once again taking part in the City's tree planting partnership program this fall/winter. We will raise \$1000 in donations from neighbors, and the City will select, order, and plant trees along our streets. Other neighborhoods/entities participating in this program are: Northgate Park, Forest Hills, Trinity Heights, Watts-Hillandale, East Central Durham, and Duke University.

I will report on planting locations and the types of trees planted once these have been selected.

Shelley Dekker  
Chair

- **Communications – Marc Phillips**

**Website (trinitypark.org)**

- 580 visits last month (up from 462) – 167 views from Listserv mail about Historic Homes
- 500 unique visitors (up from 359)
- 1436 page views (2.5 pages / visit) – up from 1252
- Top targets – Home / History / Connect
- **Changes: Added Historic Home details (from old listserv folder), enabled Blog (not currently visible due to no articles)**
- **Next Steps: Enable blog with articles, more listserv mails about new Content**

**Twitter**

- A couple re-tweets about local businesses/activities
- Next Steps: Continue to increase activity starting with re-tweets of local events

### Facebook

- 268 members (+8)
- Anyone can post here (not much activity)
- Events usually posted by event owners
- **Next Steps: No big plans, but should add big upcoming events or important announcements and pictures when available**

### Google+

- No

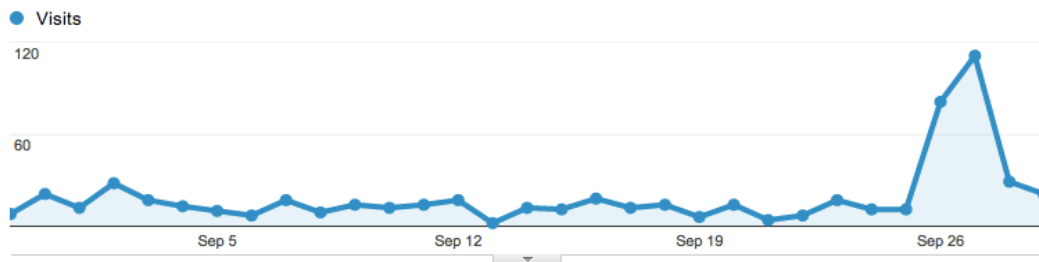
### Welcome Wagon Revival

- Working on reliable way of new neighbor identification

### Newsletter

- New editor found! Working through handoff
- Suggested list of next round of articles forthcoming

**Bottom line: posting on the listserv with links to content on the website WORKS.**



## Contributions Requests

TPNA received three official requests for donations:

- Genesis Home: \$500
- TP Foundation: \$1500 (for tree replacement)
- Salon Series: \$500

Discussion: Last year Luminaria proceeds went to Share Your Xmas.

Conversation ensues re: how to best support these three organizations with our new policy.

Rachel Raney: As a new member of the TP Foundation Board, I'm just learning about and what they do. The Foundation is committed to raising \$3,000 over three years to participate in the City tree program. Seems strange that the Foundation would embark on completely separate fundraising efforts to raise money for trees and the park when TPNA is giving money away. Would like to see the Foundation listed as a line item in the 2014 budget. We should be funding the Foundations priorities first, then giving away remaining proceeds.

**Julia moves that we make Genesis Home the beneficiary of Luminaria. Germaine seconds. Approved.**

**Julia moves that we donate \$500 to the Salon Series. Pam seconds. John Swansey abstains. Approved.**

Julia withdraws the application for the Foundation, in light of the idea that the Foundation be inserted as line item in 2014 budget. That idea seems to have consensus.

Rachel: Please ask Genesis Home to participate in Luminaria, providing promotion and volunteers.

## **New Business**

Marc Philips: Membership terms... Confusing as is, many folks don't realize that their memberships expire in December regardless of when they joined.

Julia: Many folks used to traditionally pay right before the annual meeting. And other neighborhoods use a calendar year system, doing a big push in Dec/Jan for renewals.

Conversation ensues on pros and cons of each system. Marc and Jody will examine this and come back with suggestion at next meeting. Looks like we might be moving towards a 365 day membership if the right tech tools can be harnessed.

Philip Azar: Now INC Vice President. Thinks he can continue to be the delegate VP at same time. But what about an alternate? Also if he becomes President next year, he will want a separate delegate. Pam Swinney is interested.

## **Dates to Note**

- Oct 31st - Halloween
- Nov 6th – TPNA board meeting

Meeting adjourned at approx 9:15 p.m.