

October 2017 TPNA Board Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, October 4 at 7pm
George Watts Montessori Media Center

Roll Call ~ Joan Austin, Ted Snyderman, Matthew Yearout, Andrew Stark, Anne Stoddard
Diane Amato, Marc Phillips, Sharon Coors-Barry, Andrew Phillips, Steve Falzarano, Phil Azar.

Absent ~ Can Dickerson, Don Ball, Ilene Hadler.

Guests~

Emily Hamilton on Dollar

Leslie Winner Gloria (neighbor and member of executive committee of Beth El Synagogue)

Christine Westfall (project manager with Beth El Synagogue)

Julia Borbely-Brown on Watts

Katy Dillard on Woodland Drive

Call to order ~ 7:08

Marc Phillips Introduction

Review of September Meeting Minutes—Anne motions, Steve seconds. Unanimously approved.

Neighbor Presentation~ Leslie Winner of Beth El Synagogue on expansion of their building

- \$5.5 million renovation. Building 60 years old. No significant improvements since 1957. 400 families and still growing. Congregation has longstanding relationship with Trinity Park. Approx. 30 families live in and around Trinity Park.
- Space needs across the board, including elevators. Parking lot won't change; some expansion of main building toward Watts and Markham. Congregation will ask for marked handicap spaces on Markham, which will be indented. City of Durham requests extension of sidewalk on Markham, but doesn't connect to any other sidewalk, so Beth El will request exception.
- 2 requests for TPNA: Beth El doesn't have a Special Use permit and needs to get one now. Wants TPNA to support application, and support variance about the sidewalk. A letter would be most helpful, in addition to perhaps appearing at the hearing Board of Adjustment meeting on October 24.
- Discussion of need to contact direct neighbors about the project.
- CT Wilson is contractor; project 14 months of construction time. Some construction traffic on Watts; no construction trailer. Beth El will worship at Trinity Ave Presbyterian during the construction.
- Questions and discussion about Beth El's members parking on Watts and visibility.

Presentation concludes, and Board begins discussion of any formal action.

- Discussion of whether to formally support (or oppose) an individual building project. General consensus on the Board is to consider public support for Beth El expansion in general but concern over limited information at this time around variances being requested.
- Suggestion made to publicly support the special use permit for Beth El and not get involved with sidewalk/tree variance at this time due to limited information (would like to understand the City's position and guidelines before issuing public support for this specific variance).
- Steve motions we support Beth El's application for Special Use Permit by writing letter. Diane seconds. Ted abstains; all others in agreement.
- Phil Azar enters. TPNA has Urban Planning committee which should refer development questions to that committee which follows established guidelines.
- Marc motions to amend motion to defer any specific development issues to the Urban Planning Committee (such as the sidewalk). Matthew seconds. Ted abstains; all others in agreement.
- Anne drafts following letter and Marc will edit/sign/send to Board of Adjustment on behalf of TPNA Board.

To the City of Durham Board of Adjustment:

The Trinity Park Neighborhood Association Board has voted to express support for the special use permit which Beth El Synagogue is seeking. This organization has been an integral part of the neighborhood for the past sixty years and we support this action to permit them to process their plans through the City, allowing them to continue to function as they have in the past. We ask that the Board vote in favor of this special use permit.

Respectfully,

Marc Phillips
TPNA Board Chair

Committees:

Treasurer's Report ~ Andrew Stark

YTD dues 2715.51. Newsletter invoice paid for previous newsletter. PayPal revenue added to budget spreadsheet. In the black for the year: \$2709.11. Few expenses for the rest of the year. Receipts due to Andrew for INC membership, PA system, PO box.

Membership ~ Diane Amato

3-4 new memberships from last newsletter.

Communications ~ Matthew Yearout

Several instances of positive feedback for the newsletter and Ted's work on it.

Community Building ~ Steve Falzarano

Halloween is coming soon; Steve is recruiting helpers now. All the extra decorations have been stored with Paul; need to find new storage place. Ted volunteers his storage area.

Luminaria email going to listserv; Anne and Joan spearheading this year.

Question: does TPNA provide anything to start the process (sand, bags, etc)? Will keep vague on email to listserv, Don will confirm at next meeting how we have done it in the past.

Traffic ~ Anne Stoddard/Ted Snyderman

No report at this time. Positive feedback on stop sign on Buchanan.

Urban Planning ~ Derek Jones

No report at this time.

Safety ~

Position open. Steve relates history of the position: we are Durham Police District 2; monthly meeting, stay in touch with community police officers. Safety related articles for newsletter. Monitor things on the listserv.

INC ~ Philip Azar

INC is changing officers. Brief review of INC's purpose. TPNA could use an alternative delegate. Beltline update: INC made resolution asking for more transparency about the issue; city responded to concerns very quickly.

South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands ~ Matthew Yearout and Paul Cardille

Review of current plans; good response to planning meeting, 30 attendees. Wetlands used to filter water, manage storm water, living laboratory.

Old Business ~

Vacancies for 2018 Home Tour committee members. Can't head it up. Phil: can we do home tour in conjunction with Preservation Durham? Diane: no partnership with Preservation Durham, but she is willing to head the project with significant help from others. Several board members expressed enthusiastic willingness to help. Proposal: could we hire an event planner? \$2000 quote. Significant interest from board members; committee would still have significant role in picking homes, recruiting advertisers, invoicing, etc. Committee will be formed; will get Mimi's documents from previous years.

Communications Committee chair and members needed for website and newsletter;

Safety Committee chair and members

Katy Dillard expresses strong interest in communications/marketing.

Emily Hamilton expresses interest in home tour, community events.

New Business ~ Snack duty for November (Matthew) and December (Steve)

Meeting adjournment ~ 8:47