

**Agenda for Trinity Park Neighborhood Association
September 4, 2013 7:30 p.m.
George Watts School Media Center***

Present

Jody White (President)
John Swansey (Board)
Julia Borbely-Brown (Past President)
Berry McMurray (Secretary)
Katherine Jordan (Board)
Pam Swinney (Board)
Marc Phillips (Board)
Jeffrey Porter (Board)
Philip Azar

Absent

Germaine Brewington (Treasurer)
Rachel Raney (Vice President)
Bunmi Fatoye Matory (Board)
Tempe Morgan (Board)
Heather Wilson (Board)

7:30p Review/Approve June Minutes

7:35p Committee Reports – Questions or Concerns (Sent/Reviewed Prior)

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

The month of August was very light in terms of activity. We had no deposits including dues [that we could identify] for TP. We did have one expense for the newsletter, which has been paid.

Because we are 7/12ths of the way through the calendar year, I thought I'd provide a graphic presentation of receipts and expenditures year to date. As far as receipts go we are on track but it looks like we could use a marketing push to ensure we meet our target for dues. I think based on history, we will receive more dues in the fall when we have more activities.

We also have the garden tour coming up which accounts for almost one-fourth of the total annual budget. This event should improve our financial picture.

We have two more quarterly payments for the newsletter. We have hosting fees that we must cover and that should be the required expenditures that we will have to pay. Everything in addition to these expenditures will be discretionary.

Bottom line, I think a decent showing for the garden tour along with meeting our dues and sponsorship goals will at least put us in the black.

As of now I have not been assigned a class on Wednesday night so I should be at the October meeting. If something changes, I will let you know. For the month of October I will provide a draft budget for us to begin the discussion for next year. I will get with Jody and Julia before that is finalized.

- **Community Building – Jeff Porter**

Halloween committee is forming. Thoughts to ending party in stages so that there is more incentive to actually trick or treat after event. Weeknights are hard due to work/eat/bedtime schedules. Possibly make event shorter this year and wait for when Halloween occurs on weekend nights for longer event.

- **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 to meet the goal.

- **Urban Planning – John Swansey**

Big news is that Aug 19 city approved \$1.3 M for Concord hotel project. Next steps, submission of revised building permits.. Jan 1, 2016 expiration for building plans.

- **Traffic – Martin Steinmeyer**
- **Trees – Shelley Dekker**

Still waiting for money since we are at the end of the current programs.

- **Communications – Marc Phillips**

Website (trinitypark.org)

- 462 visits last month (down from 532)
- 359 unique visitors (down from 444)
- 1252 page views (2.71 pages / visit)
- Top targets – Home / Connect / Local Links / Map / Newsletter / Events
- **Changes: Added “FAQ” section with Canker Worm tips and Parking permits info + more calendar events**
- **Next Steps: Add additional content as needed**

Twitter

- No tweets since Nov 2012
- **Changes: Password / contact e-mail updated**
- **Next Steps: Increase activity starting with re-tweets of local events**
 - Potential model: <https://twitter.com/CHNeighborhood>

Facebook

- 260 members (+28)
- Anyone can post here (5 new posts + 1 spam [removed])
- Events usually posted by event owners
- **Changes: Added link to trinitypark.org, increased admin pool (member acceptance criteria is ‘be a real person’, bad posters will be kicked out)**
- **Next Steps: No big plans, but should add big upcoming events or important announcements and pictures when available**

Google+

- You can’t make me use Google+ ☺

Welcome Wagon Revival

- No progress yet

Newsletter

- Need to find new editor

Nextdoor

- Some have joined already but it is questionable in worth.

Discussion about more items to put on the website, and website restructuring. Blog of Newsletter articles?

7:45p

Other Business

- **House Tour organizing – Entire board?**

How to begin planning event? Julia will start the meetings once a core support group is found. Date is roughly Oct. 2014.

- **Neighborhood Cleanup – Julia Borbely-Brown**

Not going to happen soon due to other commitments.

- **INC resolution to support Cleveland-Holloway historic district expansion– Philip Azar**

Whereas local historic districts protect the uniqueness of our neighborhoods and our City, and

Whereas local historic districts protect the economic and social diversity of our neighborhoods, and

Whereas the City has already recognized Cleveland St. and Holloway St. as local historic districts, and

Whereas the City has recognized five other local historic districts, and

Whereas the proposed expansion is already recognized as a National Register historic district, and

Whereas this expansion has been supported by the professional staff of the Durham City-County Planning Department, and approved by the Historic Preservation Commission, and

Whereas, 'Alternative A' includes the entire National Register Historic District while 'Alternative B', for no historically appropriate reason, excludes an entire city block in the middle of the historic district,

Therefore, be it resolved that the InterNeighborhood Council supports the expansion of the Cleveland Holloway Local Historic District, "Alternative A," as proposed by the Neighborhood, and supported by the Planning Department and the Historic Preservation Commission, and urges the Durham City Council to approve this expansion as soon as possible.

I recommend support.

Reasons for support:

- Generally, TPNA has looked to the local neighborhood association/group for what their positions is and has given it deference, much as we would expect other neighborhoods to do with us. (Most recent example I can recall was giving Burch Avenue deference on the Maxwell St. closing issue.)
- While the preservation movement in Durham has become more practical in some senses (McPherson and the Liberty de-listing, come to mind), there is still a strong effort to preserve that which can be preserved. The larger boundary referred to in this resolution helps protect the neighborhood and ensures that something other than pure profit and the developers own taste devices what is built.
- Trinity Park is currently in a National Historic District, but the issue of also becoming a Local Historic District comes up from time to time. One of the advantages of a Local Historic District is the idea that we can better control the perimeter of the neighborhood, regardless of whether specific structures are contributing historic structures or not. Regardless of whether we do in fact want to become a Local Historic District, supporting an expanded boundary for Cleveland - Holloway helps keep our options open when and /if we face similar boundary issues.
- My very own opinion: One of the reasons why this land that the developers want excluded from the historic district is so valuable is that a lot of people in the neighborhood invested a lot in renovating their homes in an historically appropriate manner. Allowing the developers to exclude the land from the district is a bit of unfair piggy backing in my mind.

Wendy Hillis, Tina Moon and others in the neighborhood are probably very knowledgeable on this issue and can give more background than I. If you want, someone from Cleveland-Holloway could come. The full write up and maps can be found here:

http://durhamnc.gov/ich/cb/ccpd/Documents/DPC/Agendas/2013/July/X1000003_Z1200030.pdf

Discussion – Support suggested if for no other reason we have often found support from other neighborhoods in the past. Motion via Julia, and seconded by Katherine. Motion passed.

- **Vote on INC board**

Motion to support INC board via Julia, and seconded by ?. Motion passed.

Discussion on INC in general as background for new members. Mostly attended by more wealthy neighborhoods in general. More loose than TPNA meeting in general.

- **Other INC events/updates – Philip Azar**

Jody,

As you may remember from my presentation at the TPNA annual meeting, Triangle Transit is working with the City on the first expansion of bus service associated with the new ½ cent sales tax for transit. One of these expansions is to increase the frequency of bus service on Route 1 between Durham Station and Northgate Mall to once every 15 minutes, from the current level of once every 30 minutes. The service runs northbound along Duke Street and southbound along Gregson Street, then along Club Boulevard to heavily used stops in front of, and across from Northgate Mall. Since the Mall is the driver for the customer demand, we have not programmed to expand the service to the end of the line at either Loehmann's Plaza or Willowdale Shopping Center. This creates a need to turn the bus around near Northgate Mall. The additional service will begin October 12th of this year.

Our current plan for a long-term solution is to lease the lot at the corner of Club and Watts that has recently gone through soil remediation. As you may know, there are significant limits placed on the use of that property. If we can secure a lease from the property owner, we would use Watts Street to turn into the lot, the bus would dwell there, pick up passengers, and exit onto Club Blvd to return southbound to Downtown. We would also consider relocating the existing bus shelter facing Club Boulevard onto the leased property, perhaps adding additional shelters to accommodate the customer demand. We would like TPNA to discuss concepts for how to enhance that site as a bus stop.

Until we are able to secure that lease, we need to turn the bus around on city streets. We have approached Northgate Mall, and they have denied our request to turn around on their property using their internal driveways. We believe our best option to be a left turn from Club Boulevard to Buchanan Boulevard, followed by a left turn onto Englewood Avenue, followed by a left turn on Watts Street. The bus would need to wait several minutes on Watts Street adjacent to the vacant lot on the corner with Club Boulevard. The bus would then turn right back onto Club Boulevard. Beginning October 12, the trips that would use this turnaround would occur twice per hour between noon and 6pm, Monday through Saturday. Next fall, we expect to operate the additional trips between 6am and 7pm, but we hope to have use of the vacant lot by then.

We are sensitive to the fact that the sections of Englewood and Watts that we are proposing to use are relatively quiet, mostly residential streets. I'm bringing this to you because we are interested in your reaction and we'd like TPNA assistance in communicating with affected residents. We want this expansion of service to be perceived positively, and don't want this temporary turnaround to negatively affect that.

I, or my staff, would be happy to meet with you and others in the neighborhood to discuss this further. You can reach me at this email address or by phone at [919-485-7430](tel:919-485-7430) (office) or [919-672-3862](tel:919-672-3862) (mobile).

Sincerely,

John

John Tallmadge
Director of Regional Services Development
Triangle Transit

No significant discussion on this matter other than to explain the details.

- **TPNA donation considerations – Entire Board**

Members present discussed the protocol for how much money is available and if all requests have been submitted.

- **Vote on Luminaria date – Heather Wilson**

Members present agree that December 15th be the date for Luminaria

- **New newsletter editor recruiting – Marc Phillips?**

Discussion of need for new newsletter editor. Adobe (Acrobat?) is used now for the software and one license was purchased, but do we still have the install CD and license? Word will be put out on the TP listserv for potential recruitment. FYI, Constant Contact is software used by Duke.

- **Halloween bags**

Julia still has some available as do others. Should they be given away?

- **Gay Pride parade**

Jody has been approached for support for helping getting support from Buchanan residents since the parade is being rerouted from Main to Buchanan, and that they are attempting to close the street off. Apparently they were looking for contact information from TPNA. They were reminded that we do not have contact for non-members, and that this would not be something that we would necessarily be able to give out due to privacy issues. It was suggested that the individual houses be canvassed to make contact and gather potential support.

- **Northgate Mall**

Jody was approached about how TPNA could help Northgate Mall from further struggle, and provide stores that are more in line with those that the “typical” TP resident would support. Question came up about whether or not the mall is even struggling (are they making money?). Suggestion about changing zoning so that mixed use (residential) additions might be considered on empty spaces. Since the owner is a TP resident it was suggested that they be approached to potentially attend future meeting to discuss future plans for mall.

9:00p Adjourn

- **Dates to Note**

- Oct 2nd – TPNA board meeting
- Oct 31st - Halloween

* To enter, come up the ramp at the North end of the school and turn to the left as you enter the small hallway.