

Trinity Park Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting
Sunday, April 19, 2015, 2:00 p.m.
George Watts Montessori Media Center

President's Welcome and Overview of TPNA Efforts in 2014: Don Ball noted that 2014 was a great year in Trinity Park with several successful neighborhood events, including:

- The well-attended Pops Concert (special thanks to Ellen Dagenhart)
- The Home Tour, which also enjoyed great attendance and was a financial success (special thanks to Pam Swinney, Linda Wilson, Mimi Kessler, and the others on the Home Tour Committee)
- Halloween in the Park (special thanks to Jeff Porter and the others on the Community Building Committee)
- Luminaria, which resulted in a \$964 donation PORCH Durham
- The Easter Egg Hunt

We thank all of those who sponsored these events and volunteered to make them happen.

2014 TPNA Charitable Donations:

- \$750 donated to the Lakewood Montessori Carnival
- \$2,750 donated to the Leo Fund/ Watts Montessori
- \$3,000 to the Trinity Park Foundation for tree commitments
- An additional \$20,000 to the Trinity Park Foundation

Membership Report from Committee Chair Jody White: We currently have 236 TPNA members.

Treasury Report from Finance Chair Janene Tompkins: 2014 was a great year income-wise. The TPNA took in \$32,000, much due to the Home Tour and the newsletter. Membership dues doubled because of the Home Tour. Because of this financial success, we were able to do a lot of giving. The application process for applying for TPNA charitable funds clarified and updated.

We don't anticipate as much income in 2015 because it is a non-Home Tour year. We project income to be \$11,000 with not much outflow budgeted.

Trinity Park Foundation Report from Julia Borbely-Brown: The Trinity Park Foundation, Inc. and the TPNA are separate organizations. Julia is the president and treasurer of the Foundation. With the \$23,000 in donations to the Foundation from the TPNA in 2014, the Foundation will make improvements to the Park in Trinity Park, including adding more benches; improve medians and circles; replace trees; and through the efforts of the Art Committee, install more public art in the neighborhood, including a Marie Austin sculpture in the median at Markham and Watts. The Foundation is also partnering with the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association to improve water quality and flow through the rain garden program.

Updates on the Foundations activities are included in the TPNA newsletters. The Foundation welcomes tax deductible donations.

There will be a work day on April 25, and Pops in the Park will take place on May 2.

To a question about the beautification of the medians, Julia said there are efforts to possibly enlarge the median at Markham and add more plantings; improve the landscaping at the Trinity Avenue median; and partner with the new hotel on Main Street to improve the median on Buchanan.

Don noted that the Foundation has been recently revived from dormancy. It is a 501(c)(3), and the differentiation he sees between it and the TPNA is that the Foundation does the “bricks and mortar” work in the neighborhood, while the TPNA does the “feel good” pieces.

New TPNA Board Member Election and Standing Officer Re-election: Nominating Committee Chair Linda Wilson said that good nominees for new board members came easily this year. They are Kevin Davis, Ted Snyderman, and Joan Austin for the class of 2018. Officers requiring re-election are President Don Ball, Vice President Marc Phillips, Treasurer Janene Tompkins, and Secretary Deb Dobbins plus Board Member Derek Jones.

Linda moved that these nominees be re-elected, and Andy Stewart seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

2015 Budget Approval: Janene made a motion to approve the 2015 budget as laid out in the spreadsheet provided to meeting attendees. Julia Borbely-Brown seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws: Marc Phillips explained that the amendment would change TPNA board member terms from one year to two years. Don expressed that this would allow for more continuity.

A question was posed about whether the vice president usually becomes president. Don replied that this is what we aim for but it doesn't always happen this way.

Marc made the motion for two-year board member terms. Julia Borbely seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Change in Scheduling of TPNA Annual Meeting: Don proposed that because the spring is a busy time for people we change the timing of the Annual Meeting to January. Julia Borbely-Brown said that according to the bylaws this change could not be made today because the proposal hasn't been advertised ahead of time. But with advertising in the December newsletter, a meeting can be called next January to vote on this change. Steve Falzarano endorsed the idea and suggested the name of the meeting be changed to something more descriptive than “Annual Meeting.”

Traffic Report from Committee Chair Martin Steinmeyer: There has been a focus on pedestrian safety on Duke and Gregson Streets. The City has committed to doing something to encourage pedestrian safety but not traffic calming. Potential actions have included putting in bulb outs/neck downs and high-visibility crosswalks. The local firm Stewart Engineering is involved, and they and the City have called for input from local organizations and neighborhoods. There was a meeting in March, and TP was not well represented. Attendance is the only way to show that this issue matters to our neighborhood and that we appreciate the City being supportive and involved.

A traffic subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Don's House (1003 Dacian). The City will have another meeting in May. Please attend to express support and/or criticism of the City and Stewart Engineering's proposed solutions.

Cankerworms: Andy Stewart posed a question about doing more about the cankerworms since they seem worse this year. Don suggested that a committee be created to address the problem and have a discussion about what has been done about it in the past, what might not have worked, etc. Julia Borbely Brown volunteered to send out a message on the TP listserv to get input from neighbors. Peter Raabe said that his neighbors in Watts-Hillandale might be interested in working with TP to reduce the problem.

Presentation by Chris Dreps, executive director of Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association, and Peter Raabe, conservation director of American Rivers:

- Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association is a land trust and non-profit organization with the mission of protecting and restoring Ellerbe Creek. It's 15 years old and owns 340 acres of land.
- American Rivers has been active since 1973 in its conservation efforts.
- Durham has some major storm water problems, and Ellerbe Creek is one of the most polluted tributaries to Fall Lake. The major problems with Ellerbe Creek:
 - Treated waste water goes into the creek.
 - It was designed to be too straight and the banks are eroding into the creek causing extra pollution.
 - High levels of nitrogen and phosphorus cause algae.
 - Trash
 - Lack of aquatic life

Neighborhood involvement can lead to some great progress on water management.

Ways to manage water quality:

- Foster tree and plant growth around streets.
- Alter the curvature of the streets.
- Restore natural hydrology – alter the urban landscape to mimic the natural landscape.

Chris spoke about the 467-acre catchment around Ellerbe Creek that they are targeting for better water management efforts. This catchment includes parts of TP, Durham Central Park, and Old North Durham. He addressed a number of practices that could be implemented with little to no impact on neighborhood appearance, including cisterns, bioretentions (rain gardens), green roofs, permeable pavers, and curb cuts. Some measures could have multifaceted benefits – e.g. neck downs could be good for water management and pedestrian safety.

57.3 million gallons of water could be managed through these efforts, creating a great resource. We should not be taxing our treated water system any more than we already are in order to create a greener downtown.

Speaking about roof gardens, Chris said that some existing structures downtown might not be able to handle the weight of them, but new buildings can be built with this purpose in mind.

To a question about what good practices are happening in TP and what should be encouraged, Chris said it would be great to have an analysis of the whole neighborhood to highlight opportunities for practices. The Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association can collaborate with neighbors to get rain gardens, cisterns, etc. in place. The ECWA could do a rain garden workshop if enough TP residents were interested in attending. The Trinity Park Foundation could offer matching grants for water management efforts.

Jody White moved to close the meeting at 3:27 p.m. The motion was seconded and approved.