

August 2019 TPNA Board Meeting
Agenda
Wednesday, September 4, 7pm
George Watts Montessori Media Center

Roll Call ~ Adam, Steve, Katy, Don, Diane, Marc, Stacey Murphy, Bunmi, Beth E, Beth S, Philip

Absent ~ Don, Waugh

Other Attendees; Ellen Beckman of Durham DOT, and Mimi Kessler of the Zoning Subcommittee

Call to order ~

Review of August Meeting Minutes – deferred to next meeting

Move Durham Long range Transportation Vision Plan was shared by Ellen Beckman of Durham Department of Transportation; there was a discussion (see notes, below); the attendees of the meeting asked questions and voted on options. Everyone agreed, slower, safer Duke and Gregson Street were important to the neighbourhood; there wasn't consensus on any single option, but there were components of each that were compelling

Treasurer's Report ~ Adam McClellan

One more membership came in (and one additional lifetime membership was committed at the meeting!)

Ads

- Self Help has bought 3 Ads
- Still outstanding are:
 - Domino's (Stacey found out we need a paper bill to drop off, Marc will do this)
 - Marie Austin
 - and Duke School (Ireka Smith; head of Duke School has been sent invoice, but not paid; Adam to send Stacey invoice to follow up)

Communications ~ Katy Dillard

- Newsletter Content – Deadline 8/21 and distribution mid-late September; draft is to ready to review
- Communications plan
 - Kevin, Diane and Katy met to look at communications plan; the team is going to try to collect data to understand how this might affect revenue; going to do a website audit
 - Recommendations will likely be that next year pilot a few incremental changes and make decisions on future plans from there
- Halloween would be a great time to photo houses and post to instagram and website gallery

Community Building ~ Steve Falzarano

- Halloween is coming up; please volunteer. Volunteer judges, we need donations of prizes, bubble tea is a popular
- The possibility of closing Watts or some of the popular trick or treating streets was discussed. In order to be approved, the request has to come from the residents of the street, not from TPNA; Beth S was going to reach out to a friend on Watts to gauge the likelihood of getting neighbours to assist with the effort. Other names of potential champions included: Shelly, Linda, Katie Barron, Kristin Heery and Marie Austin
- Luminaria is going in the newsletter; to solicit organizations who would like to manage the event and receive the donations
 - Resolution - We agree to reimburse residents to rent barriers for the City approved closure of Watts Street on Halloween Night for a total of up to \$200; and TPNA will provide two barriers should they meet the requirements of the City. So moved, Phil, Seconded by ? Approved by all.

Traffic ~ Beth Emerson – no report

INC ~ Philip Azar

- Metrics around Expanding Housing Choices are not being decided by INC – it is a discussion between INC and DCC Planning
- Southwest Central Durham Quality of Life (QOL) Housing Bond City Council Forum (INC, Duke, City Partnering) is tentatively October 7PM (Yom Kippur); at Lyon Park Center. Neighbourhoods will receive invitations; they are seeking sponsorship for the closed captioning; Phil suggested TPNA donate a matching promise
 - Resolution – TPNA commits to covering the cost of closed-captioning in support of streaming coverage of the QOL City Council Forum for an amount of up to \$100 match of other neighbourhoods’ donations. Moved, Seconded and approved by all
- Katy suggested the Forum might consider a YouTube channel that has an included closed caption feature

TP Foundation ~ Don Ball – no report / Not present

For a conversation with TP Foundation - will the foundation pay \$200 for the digitizing of the cassettes of stories of Trinity Park? See additional information, below.

Membership ~ Beth is taking over Membership committee

Safety ~ Ron Gallagher, but provided by Diane

- there were six crimes in the neighbourhood; aggravated assault, home breakins, a rape on 700 N Gregson (8/27, 3AM), car breakins, residential break-in 8/31 also, 700 N Gregson
- If you see something, say something. Lock your doors and cars
- Diane to request Ron provide his report the list serv

Old Business

- Expanding Housing Choices Initiative – seeks to increase housing choices in the urban tier
 - ~ Stacey Murphy and Mimi Kessler of the Planning Subcommittee for TPNA
 - City Council heard the Ordinance Changes 9/3 (Stacey recommends listening to the closing comments on YouTube). Passed 6 to 1. There were 40 individual speakers, 8 of which were from TPNA with four supporting the changes and four not supporting the changes
 - Steve Schewel quoted that 8000 people a year are coming to Durham; 15% of those individuals will want to be in the Urban Tier; EHC will provide more density and options in the Urban tier
 - This neighbourhood or any others in the Urban tier are no longer zoned “single-family”. A current average lot could be subdivided to allow for up to six units (a duplex and ADUs);
 - To address families of different definitions, the zoning ordinance now allows up to five unrelated people to live in a single dwelling unit (the former ordinance was put in place, at least in part in response to the student housing issues faced in TP years ago)
 - Historic districts do not offer any relief from EHC allowances; historic districts tend mostly to be in wealthy neighbourhoods (this does not change local historic district overlays and what they may protect)
 - Mimi spoke with a number of Planning Commissioners who had developed compromise solutions for the plan... apparently these were said to have been incorporated, but they weren't. The process of review and input and changes seemed disingenuous
 - Habitat for Humanity sent written support of the most current version of the EHC. Also in support were Bike Durham, Durham Community Land Trust, Development Community from Raleigh, Mike Dowdy Environmental Affairs Board, Aaron Lubek, Bob Chapman, Ron Barrow from East Durham, Idell Ortiz an organizer in East Durham, Carolina
 - Not in support of the new ordinance – Tuscaloosa NA, Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit (against some provisions), 13 individuals
 - Council thought that it was bold plan, and we don't know how it will play out and why the metrics and annual reporting and checks will be so important

- Trinity Park Neighbourhood Stories on cassettes – Stacey Murphy
 - Reimbursement for tapes made in the 1980s to convert from cassette tape to digital - \$16/tape and \$176 to convert them to digital; Linda has sent these to be digitized
 - Robert Malone interviewed neighbourhood residents
 - Linda moved here in 1975; she knows there are cool stories on the tapes
 - Katie Spencer (former Director of History Hub) – this all falls under “fair use”; as long as it's not commercially used, and the recordings are respectfully used, there should be no legal issue
 - Linda Wilson and Stacey went to talk with Lauren Mendez, of the NC Collection – the Collection definitely wants the files! They will become permanently part of the collection; they will be available and catalogued. In addition to the cassettes, they will take anything we have!!! Bring it as it is. They will take paper and digital.

- There's still a lot of work to do with this – Stacey and Linda will need volunteers / committee – volunteers to listen and identify tags, to better catalogue this for the NC Collection... Stacey to write up request for volunteers;
- Katy suggested paying a transcription service to do the tagging.

- ByLaws Review committee – no report or discussion

- Charitable Causes committee – no report or discussion

New Business ~

- Welcome, Beth Shephard to the Board!
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Move Durham Long range Transportation Vision Plan - notes

- Area of study was Central Durham bounded by I-85/US 70, 15-501 and Riddle Road – the urban built up area of the City
- Currently the plan is in the second public input session phase (first phase was broad transportation surveys), now specific corridors are being reviewed; first survey closed at end of August.
- This is still a “Vision” plan (there’s no funding for constructing improvements)
- Hope is to create a final plan this fall for adoption by City Council
- Move Durham looked a lot at equity issues – where constituents are more reliant on public transit for access to employment and shopping (grocery) centers
- Durham is growing; roads that didn’t used to be congested, are now. There are more people coming downtown. There is more recurring congestion than there used to be
- Traditional solutions included widening roads, but this has negative affects for established neighbourhoods, pedestrians, stormwater, development, etc.
- Some Cities that have done a good job in recent history Seattle – where rates of transit and non-vehicle trips is growing
- Survey Results
 - More than 1100 completed surveys 50 online and 50% paper
 - Demographics were collected; Trinity Park was well represented in the online surveys
 - Belt line plan is being used which targeted an “Equitable Footprint” – which tries to make sure surveys are collected across an equitable cross section
 - Connectivity among modes is needed
 - Most people drive around, next most popular is, then bus
 - People would prefer to : walk, bike, then drive
 - Concerns: #1 too many cars, #2 too many people #3 too few people
 - Desires: #1 desire is connecting nearby neighbourhoods to downtown; #2 building a rail system; #3 creating low stress bikeways, #4 ??, #5 build more sidewalks
- Most of the corridors are NCDOT owned – the City continues to work with NCDOT and trying to achieve mutual desires
- Road Diets have been very effective in reducing speeds in other corridors (like Business 15-501) – no one really bikes there, but the bike lanes seem effective in slowing traffic
- Club traffic speeds have reduced with the traffic calming by Oval Park (bike lanes added, there, too)
- Duke and Gregson Options were presented
 - #1 Keep one way, but one lane with a bike lane
 - #2 Keep one way, but one lane with a bike lane, separated / protected by parking lane
 - #3 Make both streets two way, with one lane, but with turn lanes (lots of hills)
 - Durham is buying street light data to analyze. Duke and Gregson drivers 30% are through drivers (not from Trinity Park)
 - 6% of Durham Freeway traffic exits Duke and heads to North Durham
 - Discussion items:
 - We all agree - slower safer Duke and Gregson Streets are the want!
 - Speed limits are still open to discussion, maybe suggest stops at each intersection
 - How much traffic has destinations in Trinity Park? If it’s most, then there may be one opinion on what the suggested improvements might be; ie if it’s mostly through traffic, TP-ers might support more substantial traffic calming
 - Speed is the bigger issue

- Two way streets make crossing (car or foot) more difficult
 - How will reducing to one lane help? Well, a traditional road widening wouldn't work, here. TPer's are also concerned about backups on Duke and Gregson, so restricting to one lane would make that worse!
 - There is a lot of on street parking on Duke and Gregson
 - Volumes are 8-9K vehicles per day (Vickers is significantly less – about half as much (presumably because travellers exit at Main and Old Chapel Hill and the Durham Freeway)
 - If we voted for the existing condition, we would support additional speed / traffic calming measures like neck downs,
 - Bus shelters and trees could be added in each option
 - Are these scenarios likely able to be approved by NCDOT? It would have to be a discussion with NCDOT
 - Ellen wasn't sure about the results of the pedestrian enhancements / aka Traffic Calming features installed in the early 2000s (Phil's impression is that these were not traffic-related features, so there may be no findings on traffic)
- o Duke's Beltline will be under design soon