

January 2022 TPNA Annual Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, January 12th at 7:00pm
Via Zoom

Attendees: Adam McClellan, Missy Crawford-Smith, Bill Brown, Karalyn Colopy, Philip Azar, Jarrod Ambrose, Mimi Kessler, Tiffany Florestal, James Dobbins, Deborah Dobbins, Scott Doron, Jill Wright, Annie Ambrose, Jennifer Franklin, Beth Shepherd, Steve Falzarano, Ron & Anne Gallagher, Cavett French, Barker French, Mary Molina, Sally Brooker, Jill Wright, Pela & Gary Gereffi, Beth Emerson, Marc Philips, Anne & Tim McNulty, Joe Colopy, Cecilia Barja, Evelyn Bloch, Gail Barrington, Phil Jakes, Bethany Chappel, Waugh Wright, Gabriele Weinberger, D Pahl, Mollie Flowe, Diane Amato, Andy Stewart, Elizabeth Healey

32 people joined on zoom

Welcome and introductions ~ Karalyn Colopy

Election of board members and officers ~ Karalyn Colopy

- Nominating committee
- Presentation of slate of candidates (attached below)
- Voted to approve candidates, 30+ yes, no nos,

President's report ~ Karalyn Colopy

- TPNA activities of 2021: Written report link given (and attached below)
 - Reviewed grants: Ellerbee clean-up, George Watts playground garden, Plaques for art
 - Community Events: National Night Out, Halloween, luminaria
 - Advocacy: Verizon cable digging/property damage
 - Communications: Website, List Serv (943 members), Newsletter, Facebook Group
 - Developments were monitoring: Northgate Mall redevelopment (developers haven't made a decisions yet), South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands Redevelopment (on hold due to contaminated soil abatement needed), Traffic (tbd bypass & rails to trails), Crime & Safety (hit & run, break-ins)
 - Membership: 210 members, up from 197 in 2020. 77 new/renewed memberships.
- TPNA plans for 2022
 - Community Events: Home Tour, Easter Egg hunt, National Night Out, Halloween

Treasurer's report ~ Adam McClellan

- TPNA finances 2021
 - Brought in \$1000 more than budgeted

- Ads down in revenue, membership exceeded budget
- TPNA budget for 2022
 - Anticipated revenue \$5500
 - Anticipated expense \$8500
 - Excess reserves to be used to cover extra expenses
 - Slotted money for Pops in the Park and meeting space which is tentative.

Adjourned

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Board Member Election Information

Nominating Committe Members	
Diane Amato	TPNA Past President
Karalyn Colopy	TPNA President
Mollie Flowe	TPNA Vice President
Cecilia Barja	TPNA Member
Joe Colopy	TPNA Member
Gabriele Weinberger	TPNA Member

Candidates	Position	Term
Annie Ambrose	Board member	3 years
Bill Brown	Treasurer	2 years
Missy Crawford-Smith	Secretary	2 years
Tiffany Gadbury	Board member	3 years
Mimi Kessler	Board member	3 years
Waugh Wright	Board member	3 years

Exiting Board Members	Position	Yr elected
Beth Emerson	Board member	2019
Kevin Kearns	Board member	2019
Adam McClellan	Treasurer	2018
Waugh Wright	Secretary	2018

Continuing Board Members	Position	Yr elected
Diane Amato	Past President	2016
Caroline Black	Board member	2021
Karalyn Colopy	President	2020
James Dobbins	Board member	2021
Scott Doron	Board member	2021
Mollie Flowe	Vice President	2021
Beth Sheppard	Board member	2020
Laurie Williamson	Board member	2021

Candidate Bios

Annie Ambrose has lived in Durham since 2001, first in Watts-Hillandale and now in Trinity Park for the past 11 years, with her husband Jarrod and two kids. Their kids are at DSA and George Watts, and Annie loves that they can both walk to school. They recently got a new and very energetic goldendoodle puppy, Maisie. Annie grew up in Chicago, went to Cornell for college and then made her way south via a two-year stint in D.C. followed by graduate school at UNC for a master's in city and regional planning. She works at Self-Help Credit Union with a national affordable housing mortgage program. She love walks throughout Trinity Park, Durham restaurants, and in-person school.

Bill Brown and his wife Jane met at Duke in the 90s, moved away after graduation, and then moved back to Durham in 2004. They wanted to live in a walkable neighborhood and found a place in Trinity Park on Dollar Avenue. They have three daughters, two out of high school and the youngest at Riverside High School. Jane works for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NC, and Bill is an entrepreneur. He has helped spin several technologies out of Duke's biomedical engineering department, including his current company that is focused on reducing the cost of retinal imaging. Bill and his family have enjoyed Trinity Park for the past 18 years, forming many happy memories of days in the park on the swings and jungle gym, of Halloween parades and luminaries, and much more. Now that he has some extra time, he's looking to pay back the work that was done by others before him to help make Trinity Park a great place to live. Bill was first elected to the TPNA Board as a Board member in 2021, and is now stepping up to serve as the TPNA Treasurer.

Missy Crawford-Smith has called Trinity Park home for the last 7+ years. Born and raised a Buckeye, with a stint in DC Metro prior to settling in Durham in Trinity Park. Missy is a social worker and works with people with disabilities. You will find her walking her goldendoodle Gromit most days in the Park. She loves hiking and traveling. Missy was first elected to the TPNA Board as a Board member in 2021, and is now stepping up to serve as the TPNA Secretary.

Tiffany Florestal (she/her) grew up on Long Island, spent a decade in Chicago, and finally settled on Watts Street when her son started at George Watts in 2014. She is a member of Durham Friends Meeting (silent shout out to all Quakers), drinks a lot of coffee, likes getting her hands dirty, exercises sometimes, supports childhood education always, and loves when friends drop by unannounced to say hello: all of which can happen right here in Trinity Park! After several years at the JB Duke Hotel she has relocated to a new work home at CIMG Residential Mortgage; she can often be found around Durham representing the Holt Mortgage Team.

Mimi Kessler was born in Boston, MA and came to Duke in 1974. After graduating from the nursing program, she worked as a staff nurse and progressed in nursing management positions in North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Georgia. She lived in Atlanta for 25 yrs, where she got

married, earned an MBA, and worked in project management and IT related to healthcare. She also owned a restaurant (“Mimi’s in a Minute” gourmet food to go) for several years, which she ascribes to her “first midlife crisis.” She has one son, who is a computer programmer and lives in Atlanta. She returned to Durham in 2011. She is now “retired” from her career jobs and works part-time as the personal assistant to an older couple.

Waugh Wright has been TPNA Secretary for four years and a TPNA resident for twice that. (After completing two terms as Secretary, Waugh is now running for a regular Board member seat.) He was a public school science teacher for 14 years, the last two at DSA. He is currently the Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at NC State, where he also works on transit and pupil transportation issues. Pre-pandemic he went to lots of concerts in the Triangle. He makes excellent guacamole and often has fresh cuts on his hands from shucking oysters. He has published two young adult science fiction books and is the editor of the Music That Doesn't Suck trivia quiz book series (first books out in Spring 2022!).

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President's Report
Karalyn Colopy, TPNA President

2021 Overview

Over the course of 2021, we made progress in adjusting to life with Covid. As we all know, in 2020, Covid really threw our plans out the window. We had to learn how to zoom, we had to cancel all our neighborhood events, including the big bi-annual Home Tour, and we didn't manage to get a single newsletter out. But 2021 was better!

Board Meetings and Special Speakers

- The Board actually *considered* meeting in person at a few points during the year, but never quite got there, so we have continued to meet on zoom.
- The Board welcomed guest presenters at several of meetings to share updates and interesting information with the neighborhood.
 - Dale McKeel - the City's Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator - about Shared Streets Program on Watts St.
 - Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association staff - about projects to mitigate erosion in several places.
 - Rabbi Nossen Fellig of the Chabad House (formerly Kings Daughter's Inn) - introducing himself and his organization as our new neighbors
 - Keep Durham Beautiful with Ellen Reckhow - about eco-friendly ways to deal with autumn leaves.

Advocacy

- In July, provided a forum for neighborhood concerns relating to the property damage, disruption and safety hazards that had been created by Verizon and Globe Communications digging in the neighborhood for many months to install fiber optic cable and 5G.
- Held a special meeting over zoom, with City Staff and 3 Verizon representatives, and about 30 Trinity Park neighbors and board members.
- Sent a resolution to the City to request better handling of the situation.

Neighborhood improvement projects

- Litter and beautification, led by Julia Borbely-Brown
- Several clean-up days, involving litter pick-up throughout the neighborhood, along Ellerbe Creek Trail, and weeding and doing plantings in the traffic circles and medians throughout the neighborhood.
- New on-going litter pick-up program, where individuals volunteer to adopt a block, and pick up trash along the block a few times a month.
- More volunteers needed for adopt-a-block program in the northern and southern ends of

the neighborhood.

- Volunteers needed to adopt the Watts traffic circle and Markham median.
- Spring clean-up day planned for Ellerbe Creek. Volunteers needed.

Duke Durham Neighborhood Partnership and neighborhood improvement projects

- Trinity Park is part of the DDNP led by Duke, bringing together representatives from the 13 neighborhoods adjacent to Duke University to build relationships and catalyze neighborhood improvement.
- In 2020, Duke offered neighborhood improvement grants to DDNP members.
- Trinity Park was awarded grants for the following projects:
 - With ECWA, \$9000 for 2 projects - 1) an invasive species removal program along the Ellerbe Creek trail, and 2) developing an historical display featuring prominent african americans who grew up in the watershed. The display will be installed along the Ellerbe Creek trail.
 - With the Trinity Park Foundation, \$1400 to create and install brass plaques for 3 of the sculptures in the park, identifying the name and artist, and giving a little history and context to the art.
 - With the George Watts PTA, \$1100 for rain garden maintenance and a rain garden workshop attended by about dozen neighbors.

Communications

- Four main communications channels for the benefit of the community:
 - Printed newsletter - published 3 times in 2021, delivered to every residence in the neighborhood.
 - Website - trinitypark.org - updated in 2021.
 - Listserv - trinityparkdurhamnc@groups.io. Very active. Moderated by Mimi Kessler, with Bill Brown and Karalyn Colopy as back-up moderators.
 - Facebook group - fairly low activity, but appeals to some more than email
- Need volunteers to help with website maintenance, newsletter writing and editing, developing relationships with local businesses for building our sponsorship base.

Monitoring broader developments that impact our neighborhood

- South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands redevelopment project (Trinity Ave) - monitored by Scott Doron and Mollie Flowe
- Northgate Mall redevelopment project - monitored by Waugh Wright
 - In October, Councilmember DeDreana Freeman facilitated a meeting with Brandon Williams (Walltown) and a representative of the developer, resulting in a mutual commitment to try and restart conversations. Northwood was keeping all options open, including a potential sale, but no details available.
- Traffic, including East End Connector, and bicycle/pedestrian concerns - monitored by Beth Emerson
 - For the Belt Line Trail, the City of Durham was recently awarded a \$9 million dollar grant for the construction of the trail. A master plan has been completed, and engineering design for the trail is underway. The project manager is Rod Florence Rod.Florence@durhamnc.gov and more information about the project is available at <https://durhamnc.gov/3818/Durham-Rail-Trail>

- The latest update from the NC Department of Transportation on the East End Connector is that it will be completed and open to traffic sometime in mid to late spring of 2022. The NCDOT engineer overseeing the construction is Liam Shannon - lwshannon@ncdot.gov
- The Neighborhood Bicycle Routes project is scheduled for implementation in the spring and summer of 2022; Watts Street is one of the routes. The City of Durham is currently finalizing the public outreach plan for the construction phase of the project, and more information is forthcoming (there was previously outreach to the neighborhood during the design phase). More information about this project is at <https://durhamnc.gov/3763/Neighborhood-Bike-Routes>
- Crime and Safety - monitored by Ron Gallagher

Community Building and Events

We got back to at least some of our in-person community events, with efforts led by Steve Falzarano and Waugh Wright

- Spring Egg Hunt - canceled due to Covid
- Durham Symphony Pops in the Park - canceled due to Covid
- National Night Out - held in August - good turn out
- Halloween celebration in the Park with candy, glow sticks, and a photo booth
- Luminaria - led by Mollie Flowe as a fund-raiser for the Riverside HS PTA

Membership

- We are grateful for all the neighbors who have joined or renewed their membership in TPNA. Membership dues help keep the organization going!
- Thanks to Beth Emerson for managing membership. Special thanks to Marc Philips and Jamie Kite for rescuing us when the database crashed late in the year.

Trinity Park Foundation

- Developed a website - <https://trinityparkfoundation.org/> - for the first time this year, thanks to Waugh Wright
- Purchased 3 bronze art labels for sculptures in the park, thanks to a grant from Duke through DDNP; 2 of the 3 have been installed; 3rd will be installed soon.
- All the trees in the park that needed pruning were recently pruned - a huge improvement.
- Initiated a Fall Fundraiser to make up for funds that would otherwise have come from the 2020 Home Tour. To date, have raised about \$13,000 towards the goal of \$25,000.
- Projects planned for the funds:
 - Replace decaying wood in benches at the Park with weather-resistant native ash (\$1,200)
 - Prune trees in the Park (\$1,650) - done!
 - Purchase and install identification labels for public art in medians (\$1,500) (note - these are in addition to the labels purchased with the DDNP grant)
 - Mulch and maintain the garden beds in the Park (\$1,500)
 - Aerate and re-seed the picnic lawn in the Park (\$450)
 - Repair the granite steps & add a handrail at the Trinity Avenue entrance to the Park (\$9,000)
 - Weed and mulch the traffic circles and medians throughout the neighborhood

- (\$1,500)
- Offer matching funds to neighbors planting shade trees adjacent to the street (\$1,500)

Plans for 2022

- Will continue to invite speakers to board meetings.
- Likely will be able to have most of our regular outdoor community events.
 - First event will likely be the Spring Egg Hunt on April 17, pending Duke's approval.
- Will work to re-engage with our newsletter sponsors and find new sponsors. May try a pared down version of the newsletter and try to drive more engagement through the website.
- Will continue to be a member of the DDNP and expect to consider applying for grant money for arts-related projects.
- Will continue to monitor the crime, safety issues, and traffic, including the East End connector, the South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands development and Northgate re-development.
- Will plan for a Home Tour once again, aiming for October.

We encourage all our neighbors to get involved, to offer your ideas and especially your help to build the community spirit that keeps our neighborhood thriving. Thank you!