

May 2022 TPNA Board Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, May 4th at 7:00pm
Via Zoom

Attendees: Waugh Wright, Ron Gallagher, David Murphy, Scott Doron, Steve Falzarano, Karalyn Colopy, Beth Sheppard, Bill Brown, Molly Flowe, Annie Ambrose, Phil Jakes, Jim Dobbins, Caroline Black, Evelyn Bloch, Cavett French, Diane Amato, Tina Moon, Jim Manson, Mimi Kessler (recorder)

Safety ~ Ron Gallagher

- Guest - Lt. Nicolas Cloninger of Durham Police Department who has been with the DPS since 2000, has had many positions and moved up in the ranks, has been Assist Commander since 2019.
 - With reference to the number of recent larcenies and burglaries, Lt. Cloninger provided information on the 13 cases that Ron had given him that have been the talk of the listserv. After the apprehension of a known youth offender on April 8th, all these crimes in our neighborhood seemed to cease. The DA's office has assured DPS that he (the offender) will be sentenced to 24 months. He lives nearby with his grandfather and, of course, they cannot predict what will happen when he gets home to his grandfather.
 - A number of these cases are not being pursued or are in limbo because the victim is unresponsive to the department's attempts to contact them. When asked why that would be, he said many people want the police report filed for insurance purposes and are otherwise not interested in pursuing the case.
 - The shooting on Watts near the church were people known to each other and had no connection to the neighborhood.
- Q&A
 - He was asked about TP crime as compared to the city. He gave a number of stats about property crimes, violent crimes, etc. Overall, TP has a much lower incidence than the city.
 - He was asked about the street racing problem and he said that there are two factors. One is that the motorcycle/car groups like to intimidate neighborhoods all over the city (so we are not alone). If they are in the area and try to intervene, that is really what these groups want: video of them escaping the police that they post on social media. DPS has a strict "no chase" policy -except for violent crime- and this activity is not in that category. Second, they do try to seize and tow vehicles when they can, but that does not seem to be a deterrent.
 - He was asked about package thieving and his thoughts/recommendations regarding the placement of decoys by residents. He said they sometimes put decoys in parked, unlocked cars or on porches to see if someone takes the bait, but he does not recommend that residents do that.

Review of April meeting minutes ~ Karalyn Colopy

- Approved unanimously after 1 typo corrected.

Treasurer's report ~ Bill Brown

- Disbursement of \$802.54 for the newsletter
- Income of \$1,054.27 for 27 memberships (less PayPal fees). Budget is >\$2,000, target \$2,500
- Discussion re the \$1,000 fee budgeted to go to the school if we were meeting there. Concern was expressed that we should not pay it if we are not meeting there. There was general agreement to this.
 - However, next month we are planning a meeting there on June 8th. Discussion on the appropriate amount; Decision was to send \$200.

Communications ~ Karalyn Colopy / Tiffany Florestal / Mollie

- Newsletter update - March edition went out, there were not enough copies -it seems we have more people in the neighborhood!
- It is time to start organizing for the next newsletter.
- A "sponsorship structure" meeting was planned last month which has not occurred but will shortly.
- Website - Karalyn has been updating the site with news and information. She would appreciate some other people looking at it to be sure she is posting what needs to be there.

Community Building ~ (Waugh Wright), Steve Falzarano

- Egg hunt was the day before Easter. It had to be organized differently because Duke is still in COVID mode and would not allow us to be on campus. And the sorority that normally has helped in the past had not had training on working with children which made them unavailable. The event was held in the park (but not in the gazebo because another party was booked there) and it all turned out quite well.
- Next event is the Aug 2nd National Night Out. Steve is looking for suggestions on kid entertainment activities.

Traffic ~ Mollie Flowe

- Nothing to report. No word on East End Connector

INC ~ Philip Azar - Philip could not attend so this was not discussed.

- Summary of revisions to INC Bylaws

TP Foundation ~ Shelley Dekker

- Karalyn gave the report on the Foundation Board's meeting last week. They are also working on Bylaws.
- They have raised \$13,000. Projects they plan to use the funds for include
 - Repairing the steps up to the park from Trinity Ave and adding a handrail.
 - Replacing the light fixture in the park to a more aesthetically pleasing option.
 - Renovating the landscaping in the medians on Trinity and Markham.

Membership ~ Beth Sheppard

- Drawing for 2 membership prizes (1 for 1st time member, 1 for renewing member)

- Winner are: New member - William Clark on Watts, Renewing member - Kimberly Hernandez - (Knox St.)

South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands ~ Mollie Flowe / Scott Doron

- Scott and Mollie attended a meeting on Monday to gather information.
 - The city has found a place for the soil they are removing.
 - There is going to be some information soon about the engineering of the waterbeds which they believe will start in spring 2023 which is dependent on all permitting to be completed and supplies procured.
 - There are recreational elements in the design that are not funded. But grant funding is being sought. These include a half-mile trail and other elements. There is not much confidence that the city will contribute to these items.
 - The people in charge said they would write an article for the newsletter if we would like them to. Karalyn seemed to think that would be welcome.

Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership ~ Karalyn Colopy

- These are the 13 neighborhoods immediately adjacent to the Duke Campus.
- There was a plan to put up a sign down in the creek area about the history of African American residents, but there was an error in the sign. It is being redone and there will be an announcement for the rescheduled unveiling.
- Part of the recent meeting included people sharing what their neighborhoods have done to encourage “bonding” since COVID. Ideas included:
 - Plant swaps (maybe to do at the same time as the egg hunt or another event)
 - Coffee and donuts with the Board - meeting dates/times in the park for neighborhood residents to just talk to board members.
 - There was interest in both those options, particularly donuts.

Trinity Park Home Tour ~ Karalyn Colopy

- The new chair is found: Karalyn
- The theme slogan is “Home Renovations - fresh ideas in a historic neighborhood”
- Recruiting homes to participate - There are a total of 25 homes on the list of prospects. Six have said yes, some who said no, and several who are considering it. We were reminded that if people say no this cycle to suggest that they might do it another time.

Neighborhood developments ~

- Take another look at historic designation, in response to neighborhood concerns about teardowns.
 - Proposal to have a community meeting on the subject, with invited expert guests, on June 8, to be combined with June board meeting
 - Preparations?
 - It was specifically suggested that we have someone from another neighborhood who has gone through this process successfully.
 - Panelist to invite might include: Sara Lockerman, Carla Rosenberg, the new Pres Durham Director, and Tom Miller.
 - Invite the neighborhood and request that they submit questions in advance.

- The distinction between a Local Historic District and a Neighborhood Overlay should be discussed.
- Find the minutes to the last neighborhood meeting on this topic to see if we can build on what was previously discussed rather than starting over.
- One objective is to determine if there is someone who will carry this forward.

Old Business ~

- Apparently the owner of the old Papa John's property is one of the brothers who own International Delights on 9th st. He also owns the Devil's Pizza on 9th.

Questions? - None

Adjourn