

April 2024 TPNA Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00pm
Zoom

Attendees

Steve Unruhe	Karalyn Colopy	Sam Griffith
Carl Rist	Jessie Brown	Mimi Kessler
Mollie Flowe	Susan Jakes	Katie Lutz
Annie Ambrose	Deborah Dobbins	Brett Aefsky
James Dobbins	Anna Wu	Chris Acton Maher
Manes Hodges-Copple	Lora _____	Timothy Dunn
MArgi & Ed Pikaart	Timothy McNulty	Tina Moon
Evelyn Bloch	Sarah Hill	Anne McNulty
Andy Stewart	Charles Bevan	

Welcome

Guest speaker - Carl Rist, Durham City Council, spoke to the effort to change Duke/Gregson and Roxboro/Mangum to safer two-way streets.

Carl thanked folks from the TPNA for their prior work on this. Transportation officials were blown away by the number of people who attended the recent open house on this topic.

The Metro Planning Association has ranked the danger of various streets and intersections in Durham and the most dangerous is Duke/Gregson.

Half a million dollars has been requested in the city budget to pay for a design/plan to restore Roxboro/Mangum to two-way starting FY 2025 (starting this July 1). A request will go in for FY 2026 for another \$5.5 million for the construction to convert Roxboro/Manguum and to complete design work for Duke/Gregson conversion. Duke/Gregson are scheduled for re-paving in 2027, so there is an effort to sync the two activities.

Sean Egan of the City Transportation Department thinks the Roxboro/Mangum will serve as a proof-of-concept to show that the city transportation department can effectively work with DOT. We need to advocate hard for the half million.

There a bond proposal for this fall might be able to be tapped as well for these projects, if it goes forward.

The City Council has heard loud and clear from the citizenry that they are impatient for the Duke/Gregson conversion to be done soon.

In response to questions, Carl clarified that the repaving will happen no matter what, per DOT schedules...we're trying to piggyback on those timelines synergistically.

In response to a question, Carl confirmed that the repaving for Roxboro/Mangum will occur before the design and construction later that will convert these to two-way streets.

Carl emphasized that it is helpful to continually advocate with both the Council and the Manager to get things to happen faster.

Carl clarified that the DOT does seem to be on-board with the plan so far for conversion of the streets mentioned above per the timelines outlined, but that doesn't mean that DOT might not change their tune by the time these projects are to be implemented, so it is good to keep up pressure. An important argument to make can be the fact that Duke/Gregson has been identified as so dangerous, per the DOT's own studies.

Mollie raised the point that we really should be doing the Duke/Gregson redesign as soon as possible so in case there are any hangups, it won't delay the implementation. John Hodges-Copple agreed, arguing that the policy should be to design for Duke/Gregson this year and that the city should show its commitment to this process by putting the money forward now.

Deborah: The data show that the East End Connector has lessened to some degree the traffic on Duke/Gregson (justifying turning them back into 2-way streets), but that the danger of these streets has not gone down because people are now speeding faster because of the lower traffic.

Timothy Dunn asked what the process is to get a line into the budget to include the Duke/Gregson design for this year? Carl suggests that the more people who show up to the next budget meeting on 03 June, the more we can push the case for the design work being done sooner. The point was raised that we should point out when we advocate that this is not a Trinity Park issue... anyone who drives along this corridor is at risk for being hurt.

Regarding the low quality of Watts street pavement, attendees were asked to send emails to Carl so that he can forward them and advocate. Carl.Rist@durhamnc.gov

The decision about the proposed bond issue will come up in June/July. It is expected to be focused on parks, sidewalks and re-paving.

Traffic - Mollie...adequately covered during the preceding conversation.

Approve minutes from March- the board approved the minutes without dissent.

Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership - Karalyn, Susan, Tim M, James

- Next mtg April 18, 6-8pm
- The new VP of economic development will speak. A number of the board will attend.
- Duke has given the Foundation \$4000 to repair the brick steps to Trinity Park. The work should be completed in May. Duke is also giving \$8000 for the Reality Center's projects. The board wasn't sure where that funding was in the process. Both checks need to be spent by the end of May.

Finance -

- Treasurer's report - Annie
 - Annie reviewed the income and outgo through the current time. There were no questions.
- Sponsors - Sam/Annie
 - An initiative is underway to systematize tracking of sponsor payments.
- Insurance - Karalyn
 - We historically renew our event liability insurance at this time of year. With the Garden Tour coming up, it will be good to ensure this is done. Karalyn wants to make sure someone learns how to do this. She will work with Scott to walk him through the process.

Membership - MF for Jill

- Membership drive is underway. Reminders will be sent out in the middle and at the end of the month.

Trinity Park Foundation - Karalyn

- Garden Tour - Sunday April 28, 1-5 pm.
- Signage is going up in the neighborhood.
- Karalyn asked folks to look for bulletin boards to put up fliers. Sarah Hill agreed to put some up in Brightleaf and Timothy Dunn offered to put some up elsewhere.
- Tickets are starting to sell.
- 5-6 more docent & ticket seller volunteers are needed that afternoon- please contact Julia Borbely Brown.

Inter-Neighborhood Council (INC) - Mimi

- An issue was raised at the last meeting about how AirBnBs have affected the neighborhood. Steve noted that the one across the street from him was annoying...noise, theft. An issue discussed at the last INC meeting was that the conversion of some properties to AirBNB takes housing out of circulation that could be available to lower-income neighbors. Steve concurred that this happened in the case of the units across the street from him.

Communications - Karalyn

- Listserv - Mimi
 - Newsletter - Karalyn
 - Website/Facebook - Steve
 - Board Website - Sam
- No updates of significance.*

Community Building/Events - MF, Karalyn

- Home Tour - October 20, noon to 5 (tentative)
 - Karalyn and Susan are looking for homes to participate in the tour.
- Future events need coordinators!
 - Cathleen Bury agreed to run the Easter egg hunt in 2025 - cathleen.bury@duke.edu

Urban Planning - Steve, Katie

- DSA update
 - At the last school board meeting, ~10 speakers addressed this issue during public comment period with a similar take home message: let's pause and reconsider.
- Durham for DSA letter update
 - 500 signatories so far and Mollie has emailed Matt Kopac to add the TPNA Board as supporting.

South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands - No update

Safety - Mimi

- Mimi may have someone who is prepared to take over the PAC-2 meeting.

New Business

- Mollie is planning to send out a help needed list to the Association
 - Another person on INC
 - More help for events, including the garden tour

Adjourn