

May 2024 TPNA Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 01 at 7:00pm
Meeting at the Trinity Park

Attendees:

Mollie Flowe	Brett Aefsky	Martha Barnett
Karalyn Colopy	James Dobbins	Scott Schuett
Carl Rist	Mimi Kessler	Scott Doron
Katie Lutz	Steve Falzarano	Annie Ambrose
Jill Wright	Dan Jewell	Sarah Hill
Bill Frye	Tony Sease	Joe Colopy
Steve Unrhue	Jeffrey Mock	
Sam Griffith	Donna Dagavarian	

Welcome

Prior Meeting's Minutes

Minutes from the April Board Meeting were approved.

Discussion of Recent Shootings in the Neighborhood

Dan Jewell opened discussion about the recent shooting death in the neighborhood at 2am the prior Sunday. This is the fourth shooting and 2nd shooting death since last fall. The area where these shootings are taking place is near the intersection of Watts and Morgan streets where food trucks congregate late on Friday and Saturday nights at the site of the former Papa John's Pizza and near three nightclubs. As many as 800-1000 people congregate at a time. A number of neighbors from Lamond Ave. just behind this area recounted hearing gunfire and even having stray bullets enter homes.

Neighbor Scott Schuett has been very active about the shootings since the end of last summer and provided a report to the Board. The most recent shooting was apparently a targeted attack on someone coming out of one of the nightclubs. Scott's talked to all the business people in the area and has cultivated relationships with the police. The nightclub 'Shooters' has everything under control and does not seem to be contributing to the problem. Two other nightclubs, 'The Living Room' and 'Justin's', are also in this area. Scott said that the police deploy officers to this food truck area on these weekend nights...as many as 10 at times- patrolmen, investigators, a K9 unit- or as few as 1, because if there's a need for additional police in another area, officers get pulled to provide backup. Scott reported that the nearby Marriott is negatively affected by these parties and the BP gas station at that site is fearful for safety. Scott felt that a significant issue was that the city doesn't have enough first responders...fire fighters, police department, EMS, 911 operators, that Durham salaries are not keeping up, and as a result we are at least 140 officers short of where we're supposed to be. Scott thought that full staffing and comprehensive training of first responders should be our goal in the next couple of years. As an action, he felt that we need to convince our fellow citizens and elected officials to pay for competitive salaries or officers will go to work at Chapel Hill, Mebane, Cary, etc.

Carl Rist said that the forthcoming city budget will have \$28 million to improve salaries...a 14% raise for police (PD) and 9% for fire (FD). He said the 911 is now fully staffed.

Mimi says that residents from all over have been complaining at city council and county commission meetings about the short staffing in the FD and PD.

The Board discussed numerous potential paths to addressing this problem and what the TPNA/TPNA Board could do to help.

Suggestion 1: Request that the owners of the former Papa John's space not allow it to be used for this late-night food truck rodeo.

Action: Dan Jewell agreed to talk with the family who own this lot (and other businesses on 9th Street).

Suggestion 2: Can the health department be used to put pressure on the food trucks and nightclubs fueling the late night party, if they are not in compliance with health standards? It was reported that Justins has only an 80.5% health rating.

Action: Suggested that the TPNA/Board immediately connect with the County Manager/County Commissioners to seek health department enforcement.

Suggestion 3: Talk with other cities like Raleigh where they are wrestling with the same issues on Glenwood Avenue. It was noted that The "Bull Pen Social District" expires at 10pm, but no one enforces the open container law and a lot of alcohol is in evidence at these late night parties.

Suggestion 4: The Board/residents write a letter to get a meeting with the City Manager ASAP about this.

Suggestion 5: The Board invite city representatives to come to our next Board meeting.

Suggestion 6: Speak to the owners of The Living Room and Justin's to try to get their cooperation on this.

It was agreed that the Board would revisit this issue at the next meeting, and that the Board would think about/solicit additional ideas between now and then. The board thanked Scott Schulett for his tireless work on this issue.

Urban Planning

Steve Unruhe and Katie Lutz gave a report on two requests to rezone areas of Duke University property (at East Campus and Central Campus).

- **East Campus:** Duke is seeking to broaden (secure non-restrictive) zoning for the former laundry that abuts Burch Ave which is currently zoned for residential and small business. Neighbors want Duke to commit to not build certain types of buildings (e.g a parking deck) in this space. The Planning Commission voted against granting the broader zoning designation. Duke is currently planning to take this before the City Council. There's also an issue with E. Campus storm water flowing into a local neighborhood. The city says that they can't do anything about this issue until there's a rezoning action.
- **Central Campus:** The issue here was less well defined. There are no residential neighbors to this tract. Some want Duke to build affordable housing there. The Inter-Neighborhood Council will pass a resolution about this soon that will be a first step to allow neighborhood associations to start lobbying the council.

Membership- Jill Wright

The March Madness netted 27 memberships. A random number generator was used to pick the winners of the drive's lottery gifts (\$25 gift certificates to Yonderlust) for new and lifetime members. Of the 9 new members, Colin Shepherd was picked. Of the lifetime members, John Schneider was selected..

Garden Tour- Karalyn

The Garden Tour was a great success. The weather was great, 400+ people attended and the event netted about \$9000. The Board will discuss next month what to do with this money.

Treasurer's Report- Annie Ambrose

We switched over from PayPal to Square during the Garden Tour and this system appears to be better for our needs so it was proposed to make the switch overall and close our PayPal account. A committee of Jill, Annie and Karalyn will investigate. Will make a recommendation next month.

It was noted that the TPNA has 12-15 different email addresses and we want to consolidate. Will plan to do this when we switch the Google Drive for TPNA to new account later in the year.

Scott Doron reported that we have event insurance now. We will have to get additional insurance if we add events, but good for what we now have on in our schedule.

Community Building/Events

James is planning a social event for the neighborhood in a sort of 'pub crawl' fashion at 3 bars/restaurants...a chance for all neighbors, not just TPNA members, to get together socially. The proposed venues were Bull McCabes, Dram & Draught and Cloud Brewing. The proposed date was 07 June with 14 June as rain date.

The Idea of a playdate/coffee in the park on Saturday mornings was proposed by Karalyn. She will bring a proposal next meeting.

Scott Doron proposed a contest to create a logo for the TPNA which could then be used to produce t-shirts and other items. He would send the idea to the Board via email and attempt to get contest details in the next newsletter.

Home Tour, Durham/Duke Partnership, INC, Traffic

Substantive discussion of these topics was deferred to next meeting.

Communications- Karalyn Colopy

Karalyn solicited ideas for the next newsletter as the deadline for the June edition was getting close.

Adjourn