

# Elizabeth Community Association Board Meeting Minutes

## December 12, 2006

Present: Kris Solow, Nancy Albert, Jean Galloway, Melanie Sizemore, Matt Ipsan, JT Peterson, Roxie Towns, Dianna Desaulniers, Babak Emadi, Michelle Dagenhart, Linda Nash, Todd Rubenson, Peter Tart, Emily Zarbatany

Absent: Russell Crandall, Terry Lett, Tony Miller, Maya Packard, Ruffin Pearce

Guests/neighbors: Karla Thornhill (Parks & Rec), Officer Nelson, Officer Katrina Graue

Quorum: Present

### Key Presentations:

1. Officers Nelson and Graue: There were two armed robberies on Weddington in recent weeks. Perpetrator was known. Have seen many car break-ins. Officer Nelson is transferring to new district; replacement not yet announced. Officer Katrina Graue has been in investigations for awhile, but is now back in the Elizabeth community, on patrol. Babak noted that they had a call for police at end of Clement but response was less than timely or helpful - need to get word out to local patrols. JT noted shooting incident at Hawthorne's Pizza, slow response time. Graue responded that panic buttons go to alarm company which then must relay message to police - suggests immediate use of 911 whenever possible to get fastest response.

2. Karla Thornhill: Reported that Parks & Rec held an interview for the director position. Offer will go out this week. They want new director in place by Jan 1. Thanked us on behalf of Mike at Grady Cole Center for our support in his first year of events at memorial stadium. No more events scheduled until spring. Parks & Rec took armory bldg back from CPCC, doing some renovations. They are turning one room into a meeting room - may be an option for our board in the future.

Discussed plans for the tennis courts at Armory Drive. Courts are in need of renovation, but because they are not used that much Parks & Rec is considering using the required \$50k to convert to parking for overflow of memorial stadium events. Peter, Babak, Melanie, Todd and others objected strongly, and asked for Karla's guidance in helping us pursue the renovation of the tennis courts.

Michelle asked whether it would be possible for us to reclaim the Hawthorne Rec Center for the neighborhood at any point. Karla said we'd need to speak with other staff members at the department to get the full answer. She doubted that it would come back under public control. Babak asked if it's true that the current lessee can deny access to bathrooms - Karla had no immediate answer. Dianna said we need to find out when the lease is up, is it renewable, what's the cost, etc. Karla noted that the Fitness and Wellness Division is in charge. She committed to requesting the appropriate staff members to attend January meeting to brief the board. Peter asked how restrooms at other public parks. Karla responded that we have several parks with no restroom facilities at all. All the parks are built out via the master plan, and those plans can be altered. A bathroom structure is very expensive to build, have to worry about how they're used, etc. Others noted that two homeless people have been observed sleeping in the picnic structures. According to public ordinance, they are only prohibited from sleeping on the grass,

when the park is open. Michelle noted that Latta and Freedom get a lot of great funding and attention, and asked if it would be possible to get more of that support for Independence Park.

Karla committed to doing more research on the status of the Master Plan and will get back to the board with answers to these questions. Also suggested we could invite a park planner to a future meeting to discuss options and costs.

Peter requested that the Parks & Rec Dept have the 4x4 posts that are left over from a banner in the park removed.

3. Tree Banding Independence Park: Ruffin was absent. Melanie reported good progress on tree banding in the park thanks to the volunteer crew. Dianne noted that we got full reimbursement through the matching grant. We met all our volunteer hours, and have to track until term closes out in March. We have to maintain the bands and take them down in the spring.

4. Road Race: Scheduled a meeting with Bianca, Michelle and others on January 3 to discuss options for reviving the race. JT can help out collecting sponsors. Melanie noted that we need a chairperson, and that it's at least a three person job: money, logistics, organization, planning.

#### Committee Reports

Matt - Web site: Noted that we are missing a few items, but should be up and running after the holidays, importing new content, newsletters, etc.

Dianne - Membership: No report

JT - Business Liaison: Discussed possibility of giving sponsors opportunities to have a sponsored page on the Web site. Discussed with Nancy and Peter. Question is timing. Melanie suggested scheduling a separate meeting to discuss options.

Babak - Zoning: We met with Todd Williams of Grubb and he presented the rezoning plan that coming up on Jan 18. We should get that letter soon. He presented the project we reviewed. It looks very good. Melanie will regenerate our letter in support in January and send in to city council.

Kris - Beautification: Kris was in contact with Paul Thrift, city arborist. They identified spots for trees with existing plan. He emailed back and determined that there are 187 trees they've planted in '05 and '06 at \$80 each for a total cost of \$14,960. The 39 trees they are proposing next year are at \$85/each for a total of \$3315. We are responsible for the tree, and they plant it.

JT - Newsletter ad sales: 16-20 ads running.

Nancy - Newsletter: We are looking into printing additional copies to meet growing demand. We are looking at pricing options and will address these issues in the separate meeting noted above.

Russell - Traffic Report: Russell emailed it in. "Per a recent meeting with CDOT, I'm happy to report that 25 mph signs will soon be up on Kenmore and Cameron. CDOT is currently evaluating the streets indicated on our traffic study and will report the results to us sometime early next year. All in all, I'm cautiously optimistic about the potential for some new stop signs

and other traffic engineering in our neighborhood over the next year. CDOT also agreed to my request to investigate the crosswalks at 7th and Pecan/Caswell."

JT asked about the 7th/Caswell Development, noting that businesses are curious about development. Babak responded that a lot is work in progress. Peter noted that zoning cmte is meeting with the proposed developer to discuss their proposed plans for the site but that it is preliminary at this time and we do not have anything concrete to review.

Melanie: We're adjourned.