

Elizabeth Community Association Board Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2010

Hawthorne Recreation Center

Board Members Present: John Albert, Nancy Albert, Kara Gooding, Beth Haenni, Jenny Holman, Matt Nurkin, Ruffin Pearce, Todd Rubenson, Melanie Sizemore, Peter Tart

Board Members Absent: Dana Inge, Debbie Johnson, Terry Lett, Amanda Loftus, Kristin Magas, Maya Packard, Susan Plott, Suzanne Phillips, Roxie Towns, Amy Williams

Guests

- Ashley Curtis and Anna Freuler – Girls on the Run
 - Officer Sprague/Sergeant Stanke – Crime Report
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Matt calls meeting to order.

Crime update – Feb, 24 reported incidents, nine larceny from autos, no residential burglaries. Autos have switched from smash and dash to targeting unlocked autos. Solicitors are back also. Call 911 for emergencies, 311 just to report and have us investigate. Comparisons – saw overall from Jan to Feb increased by one for auto larceny... residential burglaries now two months in a row with none... Feb year over year, approximately 10% drop in overall crime. One residential burglary in March – kicked in door of a house on East 5th Street, took some electronics. No one home.

Ashley Curtis – Girls on the Run – Saturday May 8 at 9 a.m. 5k. Girls on the Run is an international non-profit founded by Molly Barker in Charlotte. Program helps bolster young girls' self-esteem and healthy living habits through running. 1000 girls in Mecklenburg participating this spring.

Amanda – Race Updates – 150 signups so far... projecting 900 participants... \$9000 in sponsorship revenue not counting unspecified amounts from Philosopher's Stone and Common Market... projecting \$14,000 in net profit vs. \$7,700 in 2009

Maya reports-home tour (in absentia) – 3 houses so far, needs five more. Date in October, TBD.

Kristin Magas on traffic (in absentia) – Call from condo resident bordering Independence Park. Concerns about number of cars and speeding around Park Road. Questioning if anything on park renovation plan that addresses traffic issues on Park Road?

Melanie responds that park renovation plans are now on hold. Nothing has changed.

Officer Sprague – We will do a speed analysis on that stretch of Park Rd. You can get a copy and use it for any negotiations with CDOT.

Financials – Have just under \$65,000 in the account. Very good shape.

Kara – Tree update – Grassroots effort to lobby City Council to pay for more tree planting city-wide. Organizers have asked Elizabeth to get on board. Don't think it will happen this year, but

may next year. Kara has tentatively committed to speaking at upcoming City Council Environmental Committee meeting in support. Funds would be directed toward planting city trees on public property.

Nancy – Newsletter – Some issues with block captains not picking up and delivering. So we have extras if you want to grab and put them out in public places around the neighborhood. Need to transfer Block Captain list from Linda Nash to Lynne Kennedy. Lynne is now the distribution point for west side of the neighborhood. Advertising commitments are full up.

Melanie – U.S. Census is critical for Charlotte – please fill out and return quickly.

Owen Sutkowski – Greenway Advisory Council – GAC comprised of citizen representatives from each of the areas around the city. Issue has come up with the connector on CPCC campus, presents opportunity for GAC to gather opinions, preferences, ideas from Elizabeth community. Still a lot of information to be gathered.

Melanie says that strip is technically considered to be the “stadium sidewalk,” not a “Greenway Connector.” Remains to be seen how this will be worked out. Also now adjacent to CPCC’s new 1000 space parking garage under construction.

Matt – We should keep an open dialogue with Owen’s group as we work to influence the best outcome for the neighborhood on this issue. Peter will be ECA key liaison to Greenway Advisory Council on neighborhood’s behalf.

Trolley Path Easement – Update – Easement was set up for a 15 year term, which is expiring, but it will continue. Requires 75% vote of adjacent residents to cancel it. Requests from property owners to approve continuation of easement – Need adequate proof of insurance for general liability, etc... ECA’s current policy covers this. Need some level of regular landscape maintenance. May need to specify how often we will contract for these services and may have to increase during more high-maintenance seasons. Need something on graffiti removal – if it’s just the power or telephone boxes we can ask the utilities that own them to handle. Requests that may prove more difficult: Structural improvements for ironworks, lights, etc. Request for a process for residents to file requests for maintenance that will result in a response from ECA as to timing for performing work. Request that ECA will take on responsibility for dismantling improvements at the conclusion of the extended easement. Some of the property owners want to shorten the new easement duration from 15 years to 3-5 years.

Ruffin – Think the current language (without add’l requests above) is very close to what the ECA should approve, maybe with a few tweaks to help clarify our responsibilities for maintenance.

Consensus that we try to keep term at 15 years, maintain status quo re ECA responsibilities w/ some clarifications to easement language. Matt will get with Mark on group’s consensus view.

Membership – Jenny Holman – All new 2010 membership forms will go out tomorrow.

Beth – Egg Hunt March 27 w/ pet food drive... Progressive Dinner May 1, need host houses

Melanie – Armory Drive abandonment hearing on CPCC request postponed indefinitely.

Tremendous pressure building for CPCC to compromise with neighborhood on concerns... but no specific progress to date.

Matt adjourns the meeting.