

Elizabeth Community Association Board Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2010

Hawthorne Recreation Center

Board Members Present: John Albert, Nancy Albert, Jenny Holman, Terry Lett, Amanda Loftus, Matt Nurkin, Ruffin Pearce, Susan Plott, Todd Rubenson, Melanie Sizemore,

Board Members Absent: Kara Gooding, Beth Haenni, Dana Inge, Debbie Johnson, Kristin Magas, Maya Packard, Suzanne Phillips, Peter Tart, Roxie Towns, Amy Williams

Guests

- Tim Whitmire/Laura Thompson – New Episcopal High School for Charlotte
 - Officer Sprague/Sergeant Stanke – Crime Report
 - Elizabeth Neighborhood residents filing suit against Charlotte/Mecklenburg and CPCC to halt construction of parking deck on 7th Street – Ken Davies, Cliff Settlemyer, Dawn Ballenger, Monte Ritchie
-

Matt calls meeting to order.

Episcopal High School of Charlotte proposal – Tim Whitmire/Laura Thompson – Website available... www.charlotteepiscopalhs.org... effort started at Trinity Episcopal... in the process of forming the blueprint for what the high school would be like... four principles: academic rigor, diversity, center city location, Episcopal faith basis. Would like to open by fall 2012... start with 400-500 students. Bring in students from other independent schools and CMS. Give kids/families another option, build on success of Trinity... looking at different options for curriculum... global models, European influence, student led aspects, etc. Location – have looked at three sites... one is in Third Ward, two are in Belmont neighborhood, less than a mile. Like Trinity, goal is to create a campus environment that is open to the city and its facilities, amenities.

CPCC lawsuit – Cliff Settlemyer – Where we stand now – Lawsuit filed a week ago regarding new parking deck at 7th/Charlottetown... defendants are City of Charlotte... Mecklenburg County and CPCC... plaintiffs are Sizemore, Settlemyer, Ballenger, Tart... also E.B. Springs IV, an heir to the reversionary rights that underpin the lawsuit... here tonight to obtain some level of support for this action from the ECA... also asking permission to use the ECA email lists to communicate to neighborhood about the lawsuit.

Goal is not to have the existing parking deck structure under construction torn down... but to take this opportunity to have all the land that falls under the reversionary language declared with renewed status as public park land under a conservation easement, so that at any point in the future if current uses are abandoned (e.g., if stadium, Grady Cole or new parking deck are torn down at end of useful lives, say 50 years hence) that all this land would revert back to public park use.

We're concerned first and foremost about our park land... there are reverter rights that underlie our park... land was donated from old Charlotte families... originally extended all the way to Little Sugar Creek... reverter language states that families gave land, if city ever stops using land for a park, the families get the land back. Obviously that requirement is not now being

adhered to with the construction of a new parking deck. Eli Baxter Springs and R.J. Brevard donated land the deck is being built on.

Judge signed initial restraining order to temporarily halt construction of the deck... need another motion approved to halt construction through the duration of a trial...that decision is pending.

Plaintiff group has drafted a statement of intent and explanation that they would like to find a way to share with the neighborhood to help people understand why the action is being taken, what the goals are, etc. Board needs to consider whether there are prudent ways to provide communications support, for informational/educational purposes only. Strong consensus view that the board cannot take a position for or against lawsuit, nor be seen to be taking a side.

Matt will forward emails to ECA to plaintiff group for their response, making clear that the lawsuit is not an ECA action.

Neighborhood signage – Nancy Albert – Question has come up before about poor condition of neighborhood signs... at this point can we afford to replace them... and how do we go about it? Could take the opportunity to redesign signs, do something nice. Talked to Kris Solow... she is already working on this project. She and others are working on design and getting quotes. She will get back with info and details. Will go ahead with research and quotes and report back to board.

Advertising – Terry Lett – Thoughts about raising rates for newsletter ads... if we were to do this, would need to do before November to synch up with business budgeting cycles. Thought was that we had so much demand that we could maybe cut down on number of ads without sacrificing revenue. Counterpoint – don't want to send negative signal to businesses that we're trying to price them out of the newsletter – point is to encourage participation in community... so number of ads may be a positive, not a negative. Could also supplement opportunities for businesses to advertise through the website. Terry will do further research/information gathering and report back next month.

Road Race update – Amanda Loftus – Everything went smoothly... we had 910 runners, 200 more than last year... revenue will be around \$13k+...

Membership – Forms are all mailed out... printer is quoting \$400 for 1100 stickers... have done two stickers in the past, one for door and one for car... need a motion to approve expense... Melanie motions for 1000 stickers... Matt seconds... unanimous consent.

Tax accounting – Susan Plott – Would like to hire a tax accountant to handle our tax statements... will be around \$200... motion to approve up to \$350... unanimous consent.

Trolley Path easement – Matt – Sent a note back clarifying that we don't have a final position but that we wished generally to continue status quo with some clarification of ECA responsibility... only one response that favored extending current easement by 15 years.

Noise ordinance update – Revisions are in the pipeline, but will take time. Political pressure is being maintained.

Matt adjourns the meeting.