

Duke Park Neighborhood Association
Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board
In Preparation of 3/9/2009 Coffee with Council
Thursday, February 25, 2009, 7:00PM
1424 Acadia Street Durham, NC 27701

Board Members:

Present: Dan Read (minute taker), Angelo Abbate, Jessie Eustice, Barry Ragin, Bill Anderson and John Sideris.
Quorum Present: Yes.

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order* at 7:00PM by chair, Dan Read.
- Reminder to anyone who asks: Board meetings are open to anyone in neighborhood.

Consent Agenda:

Item #1: Bathhouse Update

BA announced he had a portrait of Wylanta Rochelle, last wife of Brodie Duke, ready to hang in the new bath house. He is meeting with City Manager Bonfield 2/26 to discuss bath house issue.

BA brought forward the billboard issue now before the City and two resolutions before the Inter-Neighborhood Council. One would allow modification of some existing billboards and replace them with electronic billboards. One would keep existing ordinance in place. Discussion: billboards have been dwindling. They are a “non-conforming use” which means if they were there when the zoning plan went in then they can stay but not be expanded or replaced. Once they fall down they cannot be rebuilt. Tax issue is probably not relevant—billboards only paid about \$2,900 total in property tax last year. Replacing old billboard with new ones would probably mean new steel construction. INC fought hard twenty years ago to get current ordinance enacted. **Moved by BR to approve the resolution to keep existing ordinance—billboards should continue to be phased out. DR this will be a preliminary vote subject to ratification at the next meeting 3/12. Unanimously approved motion for a preliminary vote 6-0.** BA Has posted to the Duke Park list serve links to the full text of the ordinances—go to the INC web site.

BA had a second resolution about keeping zoning changes in place for ten years. Board felt we did not know enough about this. BA will get info on this and what it means out in the next few days.

Discussion of Coffee with Council meeting. Pac 2 (our area) meeting is March 9 at the old Hillandale School. These are budget meetings. They are about what the City will spend money on and not about policy.

Board identified three main issues to present:

Bath House: We are getting closer to a lease with City financial support to remodel. CM Bonfield wants more action by non-profits—this is a good example. We need people to turn out if the City has not approved proposal to lease bath house and give money to support remodel. Or to thank City if they have actually voted the money. DR to address.

Mangum-Markham intersection: BR white plastic rhino barriers were supposed to be a temporary fix seven years ago. A traffic engineer has called this “one of the worst designed intersections in the State.” Need a plan—Phil Loziuk of City Transportation has a plan. BR will see if he can get it and circulate. BR to address this.

Trail work: There is a trail work day set for March 7 to improve the Brookline trail. We need people to turn out (1) to fix the trail and (2) to show Council we are a neighborhood that gets our people out. Each Board member will commit to telling at least 5 other people face to face about this.

Discussion of sidewalks. AA need sidewalk on West Markham. Too many people including lots of kids in the street. BR there is a pedestrian plan which prioritized sidewalks. Decided not to bring this up at this time.

Discussion of contractor listings: The idea has been floated to have contractor recommendations on our DPNA website. Sense of Board DPNA does not want to recommend anybody. We share information personally via email but the DPNA cannot recommend anybody over anybody else. Meredith Byrd has been collecting the emails. **OK to post collection to the website.**

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.
- Minutes taken by Secretary, Dan Read.