

**Duke Park Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, November 9, 2010, 7:00PM
1424 Acadia Street, Durham, NC 27701

Board members:

Present: Dan Read (president), Danny Jones (vice president/secretary).

Members-at-large: Barry Ragin (president ex officio), Sara Chase (newsletter editor), Ian Kipp, Jon Strack, Ed Hubbell, Bill Dandridge

Others present: Robert Hill, Angelo Abbate, Barb Smalley, Betsy Lovell, Carol Strittmatter, Sean Stucker

Quorum present: Yes.

Proceedings:

-Meeting called to order at 7:00PM by chair, Dan Read.

Consent Agenda:

1) Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Our current account balance is \$2716.45.

October Duke Park Board Meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Bath House Workshop

Angelo and Joanne have everything in order for the upcoming Duke Park Bath House design workshop on Saturday, November 13 from 9am-12pm. Eighteen people (all Duke Park residents) have signed up so far, and Angelo and Joanne plan to put together three groups of six, and will select the groups so as to ensure a mix of backgrounds.

Angelo emphasized that they will not be able to accommodate drop-ins, so anyone interested in participating must sign up in advance.

3) Night of Lights update

The Night of Lights will take place on Sunday, December 12.

Dan Read ordered candles and bags at a cost of \$400; sales of luminarias should generate approximately \$1000 in revenue. Esther and Peter Bent will hopefully be able to provide sand for luminarias again this year. Luminarias will be sold on Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12.

Barry Ragin noted that Sandi Gray-Terry offered to help with luminaria sales.

4) Duke Park home tour – Preservation Durham

Betsy Lovell, Carol Strittmatter, and Sean Stucker from Preservation Durham spoke about the 2011 Preservation Durham home tour, which will be held in Duke Park.

Around 6-10 houses will be featured on the tour, with a committee of architects helping to make selections.

Neighborhood volunteers will be needed for a number of committees, including publicity, docents, party, etc.

Preservation Durham hopes to identify key committee chairpersons in December, with house selection to take place in January. The Board will publicize the need for volunteers on the listserv and in the Duke Park newsletter.

Carol noted that 5-600 tickets are generally sold each year, and Betsy pointed out that some neighborhoods have also used this as a fundraising opportunity.

The Board supports working with Preservation Durham and looks forward to making the Duke Park home tour in 2011 a success.

5) Newsletter

Sara still needs some more copy for the newsletter.

Barb Smalley noted the need for more distributors on the West side of the neighborhood. The Christmas party will be held on December 3 or 4, so the newsletter needs to be distributed before that time.

Angelo will provide an update on sidewalks and street trees.

Barry discussed starting a new article series in the newsletter titled, "How to be a [bad] neighbor," which would focus on things people can do to be considered, well, bad neighbors (e.g., speeding, parking on the wrong side of the street).

6) Neighborhood Energy Retrofit Program

Bill Dandridge explained that Duke Park was selected in Phase II of a stimulus program funded by the Department of Energy. This program will provide up to \$1300 in energy efficiency improvements (e.g., sealing ductwork, programmable thermostat installation) to one-story neighborhood homes that meet all necessary qualifications (no unvented gas appliances, etc.).

Bill will communicate more details about the program via the listserv. Interested parties can register online to be considered for the program; funds are available for approximately 30 homes.

7) Neighborhood Bike Safety Event

Jon Strack explained that Clean Energy Durham provides limited funds for neighborhood events that promote alternative transportation. The bus trip to the state fair was canceled due to lack of interest; another idea would be to hold a bike safety workshop followed by a bike trip along the American Tobacco Trail.

Jon noted that there might not be enough time to hold the event so that it qualifies for the Clean Energy Durham's fall grant, so it might be best to wait until spring.

8) Wrong side of the street parking

Barry Ragin asked the Board whether he might send an email on the Board's behalf reminding the neighborhood that left-to-curb parking is illegal. The Board approved this by consensus.

9) NIS Code Violations follow up

Barry asked the Board whether he might send an email on the Board's behalf to Rick Hester of Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) asking for an update on code

violations in the neighborhood. Many violations have been identified, but no progress has been seen in rectifying these situations.

Sean Stucker noted that NIS prioritizes vacant structures, so this might be one reason why little action has been taken.

The Board approved this request by consensus.

Adjournment:

-Meeting adjourned at 8:07PM.

-Minutes taken by secretary, Danny Jones.