

**Duke Park Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 7:00PM
1424 Acadia Street, Durham, NC 27701

Board members:

Present: Dan Read (president), Brian Green (treasurer), Danny Jones (vice president/secretary).
Members-at-large: Barry Ragin (president ex officio), Sara Chase (newsletter editor), Ian Kipp, John Strack, Ed Hubbell, Bill Dandridge

Others present: Bill Anderson

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 \$2,321.43.

Luminaria sales netted \$264.

November Duke Park Board Meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Bathhouse charette/update

Ed Hubbell created a virtual walkthrough of the bathhouse and posted it online.

Andy Shull, an architect who lives in the neighborhood, has offered to draw up plans for the bathhouse.

Ed Hubbell recommended that a budget be drawn up before going to an architect to have plans drawn.

Bill Anderson pointed out that 20 years of maintenance costs will be greater than up-front renovation costs for the bathhouse. He recommended going to the city with the architect's plans in-hand to demonstrate that the neighborhood is serious about moving forward with this. Bill recommended going to the March Coffee with Council meeting and asking for an additional \$450,000 (on top of the \$150,000 already promised) and reiterating that we will be taking a big liability off the city's hands by taking over the bathhouse.

Sara Chase recommended getting three estimates from general contractors to get a sense for what the renovation will cost, since the \$1,000,000 estimate seems quite high.

Bill Dandridge will get a sketch from Andy in time for the next meeting so we can discuss the plans before the Coffee with Council meeting.

Dan Read summarized our main immediate goals:

- 1) Get rough sketches from Andy
- 2) Continue soliciting DPPI memberships to get as many members as possible before the Coffee with Council meeting
- 3)

3) Holiday party thoughts/comments

Many thanks to Ed Hubbell for hosting a wonderful holiday party.

4) Night of Lights thoughts/comments

Including new memberships, sales netted \$264. We have 700 candles left over for next year, and candle costs have increased considerably. To make this an effective fundraiser, we need to market more effectively; right now, sales are mostly limited to homeowners. Barry Ragin recommended having someone focus on increasing participation on the West side of the neighborhood. He thought that publishing older neighborhood photos showing higher participation in the newsletter could spur better sales in the future. Bill Anderson suggested looking into selling excess supplies to other neighborhoods.

5) Coffee with Council/neighborhood budget priorities for City Council

Coffee with Council meetings are an opportunity for citizens to give feedback to the City Council on budgeting priorities.

Last year we asked for money for sidewalks and the bathhouse renovation.

Bill Anderson said that we need to go to this meeting prepared to speak as a neighborhood, with a clear idea of our priorities. He also recommended emailing questions to Council members in advance so that they can come prepared to answer them. Dan Read asked for feedback on what else we should ask for besides additional bathhouse funding.

Bill Dandridge asked about progress on neighborhood sidewalks.

Barry pointed out that three sidewalk projects have been fully funded already, so it would be better to ask for a progress update rather than funds. He will draft a letter to this effect.

Barry also wanted to ask about the status of Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) and their services in our neighborhood. He wanted to put a discussion of NIS on next month's agenda, along with discussing other priorities for questions for the Council.

At the next meeting, we will solicit additional ideas and will approve a list of questions for the Council.

6) Old North Durham Park endorsement discussion

Sara Chase pointed out that the board's process for endorsing the Friends of Old North Durham Park's (FONDP) plans, and sending a letter to the city to this effect, was improper.

She did an extensive amount of research on the history of OND Park and of El Kilombo's thoughts on the matter and felt that the full controversy surrounding this issue was not fully understood or appreciated by the board before we voted on the issue in September. Sara put forth a motion to withdraw our previous letter of support and that we submit a new letter stating that we would like to withdraw our endorsement of the FONDP's plans pending further research and discussion.

Bill Anderson agreed with Sara's points but felt that it was not necessary to send this letter; after further discussion, if the board still feels the same way, no further action would be necessary. If further research led the board to change positions, we could send a letter at that time.

Sara replied that the letter is already part of the public record, necessitating a prompt withdrawal.

Barry Ragin had recommended abstaining from the vote in September because we had not done sufficient research on the issue prior to voting. However, he still advised against

withdrawing the letter at this time until we have a discussion of the merits of the issue at a subsequent meeting.

Ed Hubbell reminded the board that our endorsement is not going to make or break this issue. The letter is appropriate because it puts us in a neutral position.

Ian Kipp agreed with Barry's points and felt that, because this is a process that will take a number of years, we will have many opportunities to make our opinions known.

Danny Jones noted that further research and discussions at future meetings will be helpful. However, it will be difficult to have both sides of the issue represented at a meeting because El Kilombo has a stated policy of not attending private meetings, choosing to focus on public, city-organized meetings.

Bill Anderson commented that, following the discussion, he supported sending this new letter so that the neighborhood is on even footing regarding this issue.

John Strack asked if there was precedent for the board taking such an action, and multiple board members answered in the affirmative.

Dan Read was all for revisiting this issue and thought we should put it on the agenda for the March neighborhood association meeting so we can have further discussions and solicit feedback from neighborhood residents.

Barry asked Ian if anything further on this issue would be happening between now and March. Ian assured the board that nothing would change regarding OND Park in the next few months, so it would not be necessary for the board to act immediately.

Dan Read asked for a second to Sara's motion, and Ed Hubbell seconded the motion.

Yes votes: Sara Chase, Bill Anderson, Ed Hubbell, Brian Green

No votes: John Strack, Danny Jones, Ian Kipp, Barry Ragin

Abstentions: Dan Read, Bill Dandridge

With a final vote of 4 and 4, the motion failed to carry.

Dan Read will put this issue on the March DPNA meeting agenda, and Bill Anderson recommended inviting El Kilombo representatives to the meeting.

The board sincerely appreciated the extensive research that Sara Chase conducted on this issue.

7) Newsletter planning

The next newsletter will appear in March. Ian Kipp volunteered to help coordinate advertising.

A good date for the newsletter would be the first Saturday in March so that it precedes the DPNA meeting and the Coffee with Council meeting.

Bill Anderson recommended looking into creating a pool of newsletter articles that could be shared across multiple neighborhood associations. This would be a great help to newsletter editors who might not have sufficient copy at press time.

Barry Ragin suggested asking FONDP and El Kilombo to write articles (in English and Spanish) about the OND Park issue for the March newsletter.

Barry also pointed out that many new businesses nearby should be approached about advertising in the newsletter – Fullsteam Brewery, for example.

8) Wrap up and announcements

Dan Read said that the board is committed to doing more research on OND Park.

Barry reminded us that Duke Park will be the site of the upcoming Preservation Durham home tour. Preservation Durham has identified homes that they would like to include on the tour and is aiming for a final count of 8-9 homes. He recommended that we “piggyback” on this event to raise funds and awareness for DPNA.

Bill Dandridge said that the Neighborhood Energy Retrofit Program was moving forward, and that applicants should be receiving notices about acceptance in the near future.

Adjournment:

-Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

-Minutes taken by secretary, Danny Jones.