

**Duke Park Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 7:00PM
1424 Acadia Street, Durham, NC 27701

Board members present: Dan Read (President), Ian Kipp, Ed Hubbell, Brian Green (Treasurer), Barry Ragin, Jon Strack, Danny Jones (VP/Secretary)

Others present: Courtney Stanion, Jenny Rogers

Quorum present: Yes.

Proceedings:

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

Consent Agenda:

1) Treasurer's Report:

Brian Green reported that we have a total of \$2694.

2) Short items:

Preservation Durham Home Tour:

Dan Read said the home tour was a success, and thanked Ed Hubbell for serving refreshments and barbecue.

Memorial Day party:

The Memorial Day/New Neighbor party will be held at Ben and Tanya's house on Sunday, May 29 at 4pm. Dan Read said we should make sure that newcomers know about the party.

July 4 party:

The picnic shelter at Duke Park is reserved, and Barry is not sure whether or not he'll be the grill master this year.

Bike Month events:

Jon Strack said a social event would be held tomorrow for Bike Month.

Neighborhood Yard Sale:

Kelly on W Markham is planning this. They may make a donation to DPPI from the proceeds.

3) Jen Rogers from Triangle Transit – Bike Month and Green Transit

Jen works on planning and marketing for DATA.

They're taking a comprehensive look at the bus system and are surveying riders to get feedback. Onboard surveys of riders have also been done.

One major question is, What would get you interested in riding DATA now?

They plan to summarize the survey results into a set of goals to develop service improvements and recommendations to take to the city. They hope to start making improvements next August.

Barry Ragin noted that many bus stops are in need of improvements (a concrete pad, a shelter, etc.). He also suggested that an East-West route on Club Blvd would be very useful – a grid system rather than a hub-and-spoke system, in other words.

Jen responded that this is being looked at. She emphasized that the priority is to add more trips to peak times.

Jen also talked about GoTriangle, a regional partnership of all triangle transit agencies.

They work on employer outreach, offering amenities like subsidized passes to employees.

She also noted that DATA does not have extra money to spend, so additions will have to be offset by subtractions elsewhere.

Barry and Bill Dandridge said that the Bull City Connector has been good in that it encourages people to ride the bus who might not otherwise do so.

Jen noted that the survey is online; Danny will post a link on the DPNA website.

4) Other items:

Washington Street sidewalks:

The work is about to start on adding sidewalks to Washington, but they will not be changing the existing curb line.

Barry received a condescending email from the city about how there was little time to develop a plan for the sidewalks due to the nature of the funding. Barry suggested we draft a letter saying that this attitude is unacceptable; there was a lot of time to do this the right way.

Dan noted that he emailed the city about this but no one responded.

Barry suggested putting something about this issue in the newsletter.

Dan asked that we resolve to send a letter to the city stating that we as a neighborhood association are disappointed in the city's plan. Dan will draft the letter and circulate it to the board for approval.

This resolution was approved by consensus.

Bill Anderson noted that the process was flawed, and recommended that this be discussed at the Inter-Neighborhood Council meeting. Ian Kipp will bring this up.

Barry moved to authorize Ian to speak on the board's behalf and to distribute copies of the letter he received from the city as well as the Durham Walks Plan, which is six years old and contains a proposal to build sidewalks out into Washington Street to calm traffic.

This was approved by consensus.

Bathhouse:

Bill Anderson noted that a lot of visitors came through the bathhouse during the home tour. He said that an inspection of the bathhouse will be conducted.

Bill Dandridge will follow up with Andy Shull regarding plans for the bathhouse.

Dan Read said that DPPI has ~\$2700 in the bank, so they could offer some compensation to Andy for his plans.

Bill Dandridge gave out info about DPPI at the home tour and has been receiving donations/memberships. He also circulated a petition supporting efforts to renovate the bathhouse and will send this to the city council.

Bill Anderson felt that the biggest impediment to getting this done is that Parks and Recreation wants to keep this as storage space because it is centrally located. However, they recently obtained a new area on Avondale that can be used for this purpose.

Crime/speeding:

Barry noted that, since an unused cruiser has been parked on his block for the last 3 weeks, there have been no break-ins. Steve Hall came to a meeting at Peter and Esther Bent's house and talked about how to form a neighborhood watch group. Joanne Andrews emailed the PAC2 listserv about the high number of crimes that have taken place in the area over the last 6 months and received a response from Captain Sykes explaining that break-ins are actually down in that area. Bill Anderson noted that police have been busting speeders on E Trinity for the last three months.

New Newsletter Editor:

Sara Chase will do the June issue and will be stepping down, so we need a volunteer to take over.

5) Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.
- Minutes taken by Danny Jones