

GGNA Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2016

Present: Elizabeth Keathley, Alice Ashman, Casey Thomas, Burt Smith, Early Smith, Amy Peddie, Nancy Lenk, Beth Benton (for City) and Councilwoman Sharon Hightower

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth Keathley. Since there was no meeting in December there were no minutes to approve. Those present agreed that the Agenda for this meeting would include reviewing last years plans, a plan for this year, a Housing Code Summary report and UNCG Phase II.

Beth Benton passed out a summary of Code Enforcement updates for the year. She reported that 1104 Lexington Ave and 1205 W Florida Street, which were on the way towards demolition both have new owners who will fix them up so they will be not demolished.

Elizabeth Keathley passed out the Minutes from the January meeting in 2015 which included proposed ideas put forth for 2015 to improve the neighborhood and build community. These ideas included:

Neighborhood Clean Up: Early Smith had committed to lead a monthly clean-up and did several over the course of the year but stopped doing it after receiving very little help.

Neighborhood Survey: The survey was going to be conducted by students from UNCG to determine what improvements and events Glenwoodians would like. Unfortunately, the professor had to cancel the assignment so the survey did not happen. We may try again in 2016

Neighborhood Art Show: This did not happen as the person who volunteered to coordinate did not follow through with it (Nancy Lenk, ran out of time/focus)

Home Ownership Class: We did host a homeownership class and it would be worth doing again with more attendees from the Glenwood neighborhood. Better outreach to our neighbors is needed.

December Potluck: Done

October Festival: Done, thanks to coordination by Casey Thomas. Tables and chairs were provided by Grace Community Church, which was great. People who attended had a good time. We did sell flower bulbs to raise funds and beautify the neighborhood come spring. We learned that we do not need a generator if we have a P/A system, we could use DJ music just as easily as live music, need more people to volunteer, need to start outreach earlier and canvassing would help with outreach, we should mail a postcard to our neighbors if we do this again letting them know to put it on their calendars.

Proposals for 2016

Neighborhood Clean Up: Should continue but we need to re-think how to organize it to maximize participation. We should also continue to participate with the City to continue tree planting. And we should try to commence ivy eradication since it kills trees and there is a lot of ivy in Glenwood.

October Festival: We need more people involved, as always. We should do a fundraiser prior to the event in order to have the resources to put on the Festival. Need better advertising and outreach.

Fundraising for Glenwood projects: Some suggestions included selling flowers and bulbs, consider a “neighborhood sustainer” fund

Yard Signs: We need yard signs for neighborhood meetings like we used to have.

Newsletter: Re-Instate the Glenwood Trolley and deliver by hand through canvassing instead of mailing.

Participatory Budgeting Suggestions: Each District has \$100,000 available. This money from the City can only be used for capital projects. There will be community voting in April-May of 2016 and there is still time to make recommendations of ideas by going to the City Website: <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4796>

Some suggestions for our neighborhood included: Restore Farlow Park Bridge, Covered bus tops/benches around the neighborhood, Sign on Holbrook Park that says Welcome to Glenwood, sidewalks on East Side of Coliseum Blvd. If you have ideas for other improvements or want to “endorse” these please go on line and voice your opinion and find out more.

UNCG: Sharon Hightower reported that she had met with the UNCG Chancellor. She said that 70% of the current construction is complete (ie Rec Center), UNCG will be demolishing additional houses soon in preparation of the next Phase of construction (on Glenwood Ave and those that are condemned on Silver Av). She reported that UNCG tried to save some of the houses that they wanted to move but that has not worked out. She expressed that she wanted GGNA to meet with the Chancellor and that she would set it up. Those at the meeting agreed to meet with the Chancellor to express concerns and to give him a history of what has transpired in our neighborhood before he got here.

Burt Smith voiced his concern and that of the Design Delegation, that UNCG is violating the Memorandum of Understanding and not working with us in good faith. He made a motion that GGNA call for a Mediator, per the MOU, to mediate our concerns regarding the Mixed Use Development. Alice Ashman seconded the motion. Casey and Amy expressed the desire to have a clear direction on what we want in terms of resolution and that we need to be unified in what it is we do want. There was a brief discussion about real mixed use vs campus, no additional parking lots, real retail/full service restaurants as were discussed in prior meetings with the neighborhood and a development that was more pedestrian friendly. The vote to take this to Mediation was 6 yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (one attendee left before this part of the Agenda)

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Nancy Lenk, GGNA Secretary

