

GGNA Meeting
July 7, 2016

Attendees: Gene Brown, Lisa Brown, Sharon Dockham, Michelle VanHorn (UNCG Center for Community Engaged Design), Kristin Cooper, Rick Cooper, Jeff Sovich (City of Greensboro Planning Department), Mitzi Griffin, Elizabeth Benton (City of Greensboro Code Compliance), Jorge Quintal (UNCG Associate Vice Chancellor of Facilities), Eric Witzke (Barton Marlow Construction), Tyrone Harmon (Barton Marlow/RJ Leeper Construction), Kathryn Morris, Patricia Wisneski, W.D. Fogleman (Greensboro Police Department), J.E. Douglas (Greensboro Police Department)

The minutes from the June meeting were approved with 6 yays a no nays.

Police Report

GPD Officers Douglas and Fogleman attended in place of Officer Roberts

There were 35 events in Glenwood which included

- 3 robberies

- 5 burglaries

Two of the robberies occurred on Glenwood Avenue and are believed to be related.

The robbery at Aycock and Elwood involved a large group of people who attacked a single individual.

The Richardson Street burglary was related to the theft of the vicim's purse while she was working. The investigators believe that the suspects stole the victim's purse and used the information and keys contained inside her purse to commit the burglary.

There was an overdose call on Grove Street which lead to the arrest of the dealer. The police seized 7 grams of narcotics, about half was cocaine and the other half heroin.

The officers urged that if you see something that isn't right to please call it in. "That's what we're here for."

Kathryn asked a question about business license for landlords and was told that this is no longer enforced by local municipalities.

If a residence becomes a constant source of problems there is the option of pursuing nuisance abatement

Kathryn stated that people need a license for parties... sometimes parties go out of control.

Housing

Beth Benton with Greensboro City Code Enforcement advised that the following statistics applied to the Greater Glenwood Area as of July 7, 2016:

Active Cases

- 41 Nuisance/Lost cleanup cases (up from 34 at the beginning of May)
- 7 Vehicle cases (up from 7 at the beginning of May)
- 8 Zoning cases (down from 12 at the beginning of May)
- 65 Housing/Rental cases (up from 62 at the beginning of May)
 - 23 In process
 - 2 In a housing rehab program
 - 7 Referred to or pending MHC
 - 5 Pending Demo, but are Under construction with new owners
 - 22 Pending demo-no action
 - 1 Demolition in progress

Closed Cases/Brought into Compliance in June

- 46 Nuisance/Lot Cleanup cases
- 8 Vehicle cases
- 8 Zoning cases
- 5 Housing/rental cases

Ms. Benton advised that 808 Haywood Avenue tested negative for asbestos and the next step was to advertise the demolition for bids. The demolition of this house should happen no later than September.

Ms. Benton advised that demolitions are done in order that the properties are upheld by the Minimum Housing Commission (MHC) unless the house is presenting some type of imminent serious problem or serious recurring problem, like high crime.

Ms. Benton advised that the MHC now has the option to "order to repair" which gives the City more options for the property.

Kathryn remarked that there were a lot of condemned properties.

Silver Avenue Vacant Lots

Michele VanHorn from UNCG Center for Community Engaged Design was in attendance to talk about planning a project for the vacant lots in the 700 and 800 blocks of Silver Avenue; however, she started off by addressing Jorge Quintal

(UNCG Facilities) regarding the University's plan for those properties. Mr. Quintal advised that the campus access plan called for those lots to be eventually used for parking; however, there were no plans to move ahead with that anytime soon. Mr. Quintal stated that UNCG must comply with local ordinances regarding the number of parking spaces relative to the building use; for residence halls, the number of parking spaces is related to number of residential units that are built. Mr. Quintal explained that they try to manage campus access and campus parking holistically. He advised they try to build as few parking spaces as possible. Running a shuttle is one way to provide alternative campus access.

Mr. Quintal stated that as of right now they have no scheduled plans to build anything on the Silver Avenue lots. J

Jeff Sovich (Greensboro City Planning Department) stated that there were parking requirements throughout the city, but that the central business district did not have a parking requirement.

Mitzi Griffin who lived in the 900 block of Glenwood Avenue brought up a problem she was having with the parking permits that Glenwood residence living close to the campus are required to have. She stated that the folks from the city told her that that she could only have 2 parking permits, but she has 4 cars. Jeff Sovich stated that they are enacting that rule erroneously and it's going to get resolved.

Grove Street

Kristen Cooper stated that she and her husband, Rick, moved here 2 months ago. She stated that she loved Glenwood. She stated that she saw Grove Street and thinks it could be a more vibrant business district. She stated that she wants to revitalize that area. She had been in contact with Preservation Greensboro who said that they are going to host a charette and invite anyone to offer ideas. Kristin said that Travis Hicks with UNCG's Center for Community Engaged Design called the owner of the Grove Street buildings, Jason Paul to see if he would be interested in helping with the project. Kristin said that Mr. Paul advised that he'll keep the rent at \$300/month until the businesses take off. Kristin advised that this is just the beginning of the process.

Kristin said she walked the Grove Street area at dusk with Benjamin Briggs of Preservation Greensboro and noted that lighting is not sufficient, crosswalks are nonexistent, and that there are shrubs growing over the sidewalk. Why would people want to come?

Mitzi Griffin advised that there was a revitalization effort made for Grove Street

Fundraising

Kristin brought of the need for fundraising which lead to a discussion of the possibility of getting our 501c3.....to help raise money. Mitzi said she thought we were already a non-profit. Patricia stated she had looked into this issue before and that the neighborhood association was listed with the State of NC as a non-profit, but not with the IRS. We need to be listed with the IRS as a non-profit to solicit for tax deductible donations. Gene Brown stated that it was expensive to obtain a 501(c)3 status and Kristin stated it would cost \$800.

At the end of the discussion, Kristin made a motion that the GGNA pursue the non-profit status. Patricia seconded the motion. President Kathryn Morris asked for a vote regarding using funds to obtain the 501(c)3. The motion passed with 7 yays...0 nays...1 abstain.

Kristin said she spoke with Food Lion who agreed to donate chicken for a fundraiser and she'd like to plan a bbq chicken dinner as a fundraiser.

Paint the Town

Gene Brown, Glenwood resident, and president of Community Housing Solutions (CHS) www.chshousing.org advised that CHS had chosen Glenwood to do their annual Paint the Town event. Mr. Brown explained that CHS is a non-profit organization that uses licensed general contractors and volunteer to help low-income homeowners fix up their homes. Their focus is mainly on elderly people, but they will help others who are in need of assistance. (see the link above for more information).

For the Paint the Town project, CHS works with the City of Greensboro, UNCG, and the Greensboro Fire Department to focus on one neighborhood to do home repairs. Mr. Brown advised that UNCG did some housing surveys about housing stock in Glenwood.

Right now, they are looking to recruit volunteers and sponsors for the work. They are also currently soliciting homeowners to apply. On July 20th they will have students to help distribute fliers.

The Paint the Town Project which is scheduled for **Saturday, September 17, 2016** is for outdoor work only, painting, yard work. They need 10-20 volunteers and sponsors. To qualify a person's income must fall below a certain level. They give priority to older adults and disabled homeowners. They are looking for support to communicate information regarding the event. So, if you know of people in need of this type of help, encourage them to apply.

Jeff Sovich, City of Greensboro Lead Planner helped the GGNA put the neighborhood plan together, but as the plan started to get implemented, the neighborhood took a different focus. Jeff said that Kathryn Morris asked me to go over the neighborhood plan and what the neighborhood could do to implement the plan.

Kristin asked if Jeff felt that the neighborhood plan needed to be updated since it's been so long since it was done.....

Jeff stated that overall goals are valid. I may need to fix wording....department names have changed CHS did not exist. 90% is still valid....and what the neighborhood is in need of working on.

Jeff suggested organizing to work with neighbors to assist in walking by areas where undesirable stuff is happening.

Patricia asked Jeff about money in state budget for grants to convenience stores in food desert neighborhoods to get refrigeration units to carry fresh food. Jeff said he'd check it out. (Patricia heard this in a news report).

Jeff said that since the plan was adopted the reported crime has dropped by $\frac{1}{3}$

Jeff stated in reference to a question regarding street sign toppers, Westerwood did crowd funding He said to contact Transportation...to find out the cost....and they will tell you the number of signs you can have.

Kathryn asked about lighting. Kathryn stated that Glenwood is a terribly dark neighborhood. Jeff stated that the police department and Transportation have funds to install supplemental lighting. He said to contact Kim Smith with Transportation Police will do studies as to how many lights are out. Concentrate on areas where it's more than 250' between lights.

Jeff reminded everyone of the Greensboro Fix-It phone app where people can report problems to the city. It's available as an app or a desk top. These are for non-emergency situations only. Here are some links: <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4373> <https://en.seeclickfix.com>

Spartan Village Construction Update

Eric Witzke and Tyrone Harmon who are project managers for the Phase II Spartan Village construction project advised that they received approval to close Glenwood Avenue the week of 18th for approximately 8 months. They further advised that the job fair is going to be rescheduled for August 6th due to bid packages going out late and that they have not received enough trade bids. They expect to have 20 contractors there looking to hire people.