

North Hills Area Association Minutes
As recorded by Roy Andrews, Secretary
March 27, 2008

- **Steve Eldridge, NHAA President presided**
- **City Councilman Bob Becker in attendance**
- **Bill Cole from the City Engineering Department was present**
- **Officer Danny Paidousis and two other Police Officers represented the KPD**
- **Refreshments prepared by Mrs. Edna Eldridge**
- **46 people in attendance**

Meeting Agenda

After members and guests were greeted and welcomed by President, Steve Eldridge, the eleven individuals who comprise the new NHAA Board of Directors were introduced. They are Teddi Fritts as VP, Roy Andrews as secretary, Karen Winstead as treasurer, Bill Gorman as parliamentarian. Others on the new 11 member board are Billy Tindell, Matthew Burns, Nick Cazana, Bill Nordike, Jim Hollifield, and Nichole Greene. Ida Maxson will continue to help with contacts and Lisa Johnson will continue the website.

Steve introduced Karen Winstead who gave the treasurers report. Karen stated our treasury was sound and that we were able to accomplish several goals for our area due to a leadership grant from the state that President Eldridge received for his outstanding leadership in 2007. The report was approved.

Bill Cole from the Knoxville City Traffic Engineering Department was introduced and led a follow up discussion pertaining to the development of a traffic calming plan he spoke about in October.

He said that there appears to be special concern about the proposed circle at the intersection of Fountain Park Boulevard and North Hills Boulevard. He said that he had been requested to look at this situation and that the ultimate decision will be determined by a survey of those affected by the proposed changes, with those living adjacent to the proposed circle having the greatest vested interest. A drawing of the area in question was passed around. Complaints have been voiced that vehicles traveling through this intersection often are going too fast and drivers often don't yield to oncoming traffic. It was suggested that signage be added indicate the split boulevard. Nick Cazana mentioned that a fence near the spot in question was often hit by motorists. Teddi Fritts was concerned that emergency vehicles would have problems maneuvering the circle area. Wayne Green suggested that fire truck cabs be used for testing this potential problem. Several attendees voiced opinions as to the best method for making the situation more generally agreeable. Ruth Grubb of Plantation Hills stated her desire to see more "Yield" signs in places where the right of way is questionable. Frank Hurley of Fountain Park expressed his wish for rumble strips in front of his home. Bill said that these strips had been generally well received. In response to a question from Steve about where we

currently are in the voting process pertaining to traffic calming, Bill said that we need to have the final design before voting and it is important that the design with the best chance for success be the one put forth. The decision on the circle in question should be made soon in order to proceed with voting.

Steve next introduced Officer Danny Paidousis who is our liaison for a pilot program being conducted by KPD.

A small group of individuals is to be selected to communicate concerns to Officer Paidousis. This will be coordinated by the North Hills neighborhood watch coordinator and also through Steve for Plantation Hills and other outer areas. These are to be centered on non emergency issues which are not pressing but does need on going investigation. It was stressed that individuals continue to use normal channels (911, 311) for more immediate problems, and this program was not intended to replace those venues for situations requiring a more immediate response. Officer Paidousis said that scam artists were obvious in the area with the most common being an attempt to get money for broken down cars. A silver colored Nissan was one vehicle that had been involved on several occasions. In response to questions, Officer Paidousis said that he would be the contact person for ongoing problems with drug houses and pet owners were responsible for waste left by their dogs. Wayne Green questioned why he got little or no response to requests for assistance pertaining to continued illicit after dark activity on an unlit section near his home. Providing adequate street lighting was suggested as a solution. Officer Paidousis handed out a brochure on the program which is designed to eliminate multiple calls into the police department.

North Hills boulevard resident **Art Clancy** told about a new type of zoning which prohibits the tearing down of an older residence and replacing it with two new ones on a single lot. **R1-EN zoning** restricts how property can be treated and appears to be well received in Knoxville. Art said that neighborhoods were asking to be included and Mark Donaldson would come and explain it further if requested. The response was favorable to having Mr. Donaldson at a future meeting. Mention was made of the Gaston Ave property and how it might have made a difference there.

Steve stated that he would discuss the accomplishments of 2007.

2007 NHAA accomplishments:

- ✓ **1.** The traffic calming has been a top priority with the active participation of officers and city engineering who now has the preliminary study information and has gotten specific plans ready along with the design center. A very successful whole neighborhood meeting was held on March 30, 06. As a result the petitions went out all over the area and well over 100 names were acquired to allow the process to proceed. This past year a citizens committee was established which included residents of the area who gave their direct input regarding the

traffic barriers and locations. We have rumble strips and new speed signs and will soon move on to the vote.

- ✓ **2.** Plantation Hills had two major meetings to discuss a neighborhood watch and they were successful as much of the vandalism that was so intense in the summer has decreased and neighbors have been more alert but still no coordinator. Increased patrolling and citing can and will continue to help. Our new police liaison is now in place to respond to the needs of our area. **This has been accomplished through a joint effort of the NHAA President and the police department.** The program is being initiated with other associations also as a trial program to help communities. One major drug house was also eliminated from the area with the help and coordination of neighbors, NHAA, our city council rep and the police. The elimination of this has completely allowed for new ownership of properties in that particular area. A house on Keystone is currently being checked on for drug activity.
- ✓ **3.** A neighborhood dinner was held in May. It was a first and we hope won't be a last. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the NHAA netted around 200 dollars in donations. 75 people attended. Information about some of the area's homes was presented during this meeting and residents found it to be historically fascinating.
- ✓ **4.** We had an interesting year with our back Cecil Street/North Park entrance. John Stone and the Berean School volunteered to take on the clean up as a volunteer project. They did an exceptional job working on it and also doing clean ups of litter around the Cecil St and Wilderness area on several occasions. Steve's continued talks with the city and David Brace finally resulted in the city agreeing to take over the entrance and do the required maintenance as of March 1. This will be a big help to us as this has been a major goal for NHAA since the NHAA built the site in 2002.
- ✓ **5.** Our goal to reach out to our three neighborhood schools was finally reached. NHAA has been able to assist or is in the process of planning to assist our three schools at this time. We are happy to finally be able to give back to the community by providing a connection between the school and our NHAA community.
- ✓ **6.** Properties have continued to be addressed especially rentals if they are eye sores or are hazards to other neighbors. Great strides have been made on Gaston over the last 6 years and many homes have been redone and selling to homeowners with fewer rentals. Carson has also seen an increase in new building. The codes office has worked well with NHAA to enforce a number of cleanups on properties that have been problems.

- ✓ **7.** The president of NHAA was awarded a leadership recognition grant of 3000 dollars. This grant has been committed to a number of worthy causes in our area. Fulton High school alumni association got 1000 for needy students to receive college scholarships, The urban family outreach program of the Washington Pike Methodist Church received 800.00 for help in replacing the playground equipment which serves many of our area children, The rest is committed to Belle Morris school and an in the works project for Whittle Springs.
- ✓ **8.** NHAA is now officially a part of COIN (Council of Involved Neighborhoods) Steve stated he attends meetings and represents our concerns with other neighborhood leaders on the council to give strength in getting action for our community faster and to learn more from our other city associations through civil discussion.
- ✓ **9.** NHAA cosponsored a meet and greet with other associations in our North and North east area for commission candidates back before the election at the New Harvest Center. Steve continues to work closely with our Alice Bell neighbors and President Ronnie Collins in partnership to find solutions to larger issues that can ultimately affect the living conditions for our whole area.
- ✓ **10.** Ellen Zavisca, President of the Edgewood Park neighborhood association and Steve have joined forces to start a study of the commercial area around the Whittle Springs area. This study could consider a form-based code or other innovative zoning for this commercial area, as well as road improvements to increase pedestrian safety and comfort.
- ✓ **11.** The President and secretary were able to attend the city/county conference in March as some of you may have also. This was open to the public and neighborhood leaders and provided opportunities for citizens to learn more about how things work for our city and long range planning.
- ✓ **12.** Attendance has increased at all four of our NHAA meetings last year which are in keeping with each year from the past. 233 people attended our meetings in 2007. Close to 20 were new or first time attendees.

A discussion of the 2008 goals and projects

- ✓ . We will continue to have informative speakers and programs of interest for all residents as we have always done in the past. Candidates running

for office will be given the opportunity to meet with residents and give their positions on the issues.

- ✓ The traffic calming study which is under consideration will continue. This has been a **very long process** and hopefully we will see some physical changes this year. Mr. Cole and David Watson of the design center will continue to stay in touch with updates and we are shooting for voting to occur soon.
- ✓ We will be returning to our newsletter very shortly. We will soon have someone in place to do our newsletter as it is an excellent tool for NHAA to keep neighbors informed of what work is actually being done in the area and happenings of interest. We encourage anyone who has an announcement or event to let us know so it can be placed in the newsletter.
- ✓ A project has been discussed to honor the first principle of Whittle Springs Jr. High. It will be a commemorative memorial. The design is to be determined and will honor her legacy to the community. It will be for Helon Brixey who influenced generations of now adults who attended both Whittles and Christenberry schools. Ms. Brixey died last year at the age of 105.
- ✓ NHAA will continue to monitor land development in the area. The area on Haggard Rd. is a primary concern and one piece of it has already been sold to a developer who is planning on placing four houses on it. The type of houses we fear will not be in keeping with the others in the area. This is a precursor to larger subdivision development later. NHAA had hoped to move for a park in this area but this was not followed up on. Other lots have been recently rezoned for building multiple homes including one on Gaston.
- ✓ Protecting our neighborhood's value. Abandoned houses, litter and debris on vacant lots as well as unsightly junk cars and tractor trailer cabs parked in front yards etc., negatively impact the value of our neighborhood and homes. To continue enhancing the value of our area we will work closely with the codes and zoning offices to make sure they enforce codes and cite violators
- ✓ Partnerships with our other associations will continue. The work at Whittle Springs Rd with the Edgewood group is one such example. As we are not directly connected to larger redevelopment areas we are not as directly affected, however, the recent announcement of closing St. Mary's Hospital can be a concern in terms of how it will affect our whole community in terms of economic loss and also what will be done with a big empty bldg. **Partnering** helps give a voice to the city sectors

as a whole and ultimately benefits us all in terms of planning and revitalization.

- ✓ A committee has been put together to look at our current bylaws and to work on the areas that need improving. The bylaws need not reorganize NHAA but clarify certain sections that were vague or weak in the past. The committee will work on these throughout the next few months along with the other goals mentioned above.

Steve ended the meeting by thanking the new board and stating that it has been a pleasure working with them in planning for our year ahead. The board is united and looks forward to tackling issues of importance to all areas of the neighborhood. He stated that the board exemplifies the original goals and commitment of NHAA for the residents it represents.

Next meeting is May 22, 08