

WEST PACES/NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.
***APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF**
DIRECTORS ON Tuesday, August 15, 2017, 7 PM
Pace Academy, 966 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA 30327

*Minutes will be officially approved at the next board meeting on 09.26.17

President Anna Sonoda called the Meeting to order at 7 PM in the Fuqua Presentation Room at Pace Academy.

Present at the Meeting: The Meeting's attendance list reflects 13 of the 20 Board members. The following Board members attended the Meeting: Steve Dickson, Charles Hoke, Anna Sonoda, Leslie Stebbins, John Barton, Henry Feinstein, Maxine Feinstein, Parker Hudson, Tom Tidwell, Harold Goins, Lessie Love, Fred Assaf, Rip Black, and Margaret Joiner. Guests present at the meeting were Kent Strickland (from City Council President Ceasar Mitchell's office), Lee Caswell, Leigh Braswell and Steve Waechter.

Kent Strickland: Kent was here representing Ceasar Mitchell's office. He attended to let us know that we could reach out to Ceasar's office if we needed anything.

Secretary's Report: Fred was absent and Steve Dickson was on hand to record the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May and June meetings. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Charles Hoke distributed the association's financial report as of July 31, which reflected a cash balance of \$35,000. Included are the Beautification Fund (\$2,000) and Reserve Funds (\$10,000). We received a check for \$300 from a film company at the beginning of the summer (this was applied to Beautification). We are spending \$5,000 a month for security and are in good financial shape. We no longer supply cell phones for our Security team. As of today, we have 277 members of the Association. Tom Tidwell moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Parker Hudson seconded the motion. Board voted to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Security Report: Eddie Padgett reported that it has been a quiet summer. Reinforced not to leave anything valuable in our parked cars at night. Steve Waechter did report that a car was parked on Pinestream close to Northside Drive and he thought it had been there for two or three days.

Social Committee: Parker Hudson reminded everyone that we have two speakers for our fall series. David Moore from the Historic Oakland Cemetary will be the featured speaker on September 14th. On November 16th, our speaker will be James Ottley, Chairman of the Board of the Buckhead Historical Society. As we get closer to these dates, we will need to put out signs around the neighborhood.

Transportation Committee: Tom Tidwell talked about the construction that is taking place at Moore's Mill and Northside Parkway. Due to the interstate mishap on I 85 in the spring, this project was delayed. According to Tom, it was originally scheduled to have been completed in November, but now he's not sure when the new completion date is. Henry Feinstein reported that Paces Forest Drive had been repaved about 9 years after he had requested the Department of Public Works to repave a few streets in the neighborhood. Even though a number of streets met the City's criteria for repaving, only Paces Forest Drive was repaved.

Membership: Steve Dickson and Harold Goings talked about membership. Steve did not put a letter out in July requesting nonpaying members join. Harold mentioned putting out a letter later on in the fall identifying members who have not paid on each street. Steve and Harold will be meeting to put together a time frame for getting out letters this fall for 2018 membership.

Leigh Braswell and Steve Waechter: Wanted to talk to the board about the vacant lot at 3343 Pine Meadow.

- The lot was purchased in November of 2016. The size of the lot is 193' on one side and 160' on the other, making it a fairly large lot.
- The new owner works for Watershed, but is not applying for a variance or stream buffer. He says he will live in the house once it's completed with his wife and child.
- Leigh and Steve have seen the plans for the lot and have some issues. They don't mind the lot being developed, they just want it done well. The new owner wants a 25 ft. setback from the curb, and in their opinion, this is too close to the curb and the house is too big for the lot.
- They have met with the builder to talk about the house plans. They proposed that the house be built 40 feet from the curb. Builder is willing to have a 30 foot setback.
- NPU is not supporting this project as it is, yet. John Barton asked if other variances have been granted in the neighborhood.
- Leigh and Steve have created a petition and have 11 signatures so far. Four neighbors who surround this lot have signed the petition.
- Anna Sonada asked what the Neighborhood Association can do to support the neighbors. Leigh and Steve said they want help to strengthen the opposition to the new house.
- Parker asked if we should form a Committee to look into this and this action was approved.
- John Barton will chair this Committee. Leigh and Steve passed around their petition to get signatures from board members.
- According to Henry Feinstein, the new owner is applying for a variance to the front setback, but is not requesting a variance to allow encroachment into the stream buffer.

Pace parking garage: This conversation started with Fred Assaf talking about the Neighborhood Relations Committee (NRC) and why it was initially formed.

- Neighborhood relations were less than optimal when Pace wanted to put a football field on the campus. This created tension between the school and the neighborhood. As a way to put this behind us, this committee was developed to come up with a 20 year plan to work with the neighborhood. The committee is to be made up of residents from Wood Valley, Rilman, Gatewood.
- The Neighborhood Relations Committee was formed in 2007 when Jack Helriegel was President.
- The NRC was to meet quarterly. Current members are Missy Diaz from Gatewood, Andy and Cathy Williams from Wood Valley, Linda Davis from Wood Valley , Leslie Petter (who used to live in the neighborhood, but no longer does), the current President of the WPNA (Anna Sonada) and the President of Kingswood's Association as well as Fred Assaf.
- Members are not supposed to have any affiliation with Pace.
- Anna made a motion for Ann Wise to take a seat on the committee for Rilman Rd. (the WPNA Board nominates members of this committee).
- Lee Carswell from Ashworth Court spoke up and asked why this street (being so close to Pace) did not have a member on this Committee. Says Ashworth is more affected by Pace than any other street in the neighborhood.
- John Barton read from the Neighborhood Agreement
- Anna asked who has voting power on the Committee. Since Leslie Petter doesn't live in the neighborhood any more, she does not have voting power.
- Missy Diaz said that the purpose of the Committee is to communicate to the WPNA Board.
- Fred Assaf said Linda Davis could be removed from the Committee, her kids went to Pace. Fred will call Linda and ask if she will step down from the Committee.
- Lee Carswell doesn't want to amend the agreement. He says if you start modifying it, you open Pandora's Box.
- Lee says he has been in the neighborhood and is not biased.
- John Barton also spoke and talked about the spirit of the agreement.
- Lee says he hasn't opposed any of Pace's projects to date. He has lived through three constructions and has not complained.
- John says we want the neighborhood residents to be on board with what is going on. What Pace wants to do is specified in the agreement.
- Parker says we should address Lee's issue and with Linda Davis on Wood Valley.
- Parker seconded Ann Wise's nomination to be on the Neighborhood Committee.
- Rip suggested we free up a seat on Wood Valley (Linda Davis) and give to someone on Ashworth Court.

- Regarding the parking garage, Fred Assaf said he bypassed the Neighborhood Relations Committee and came to the board to get feedback on the project. The Pace Board has not approved the plan and Fred wanted to get feedback from the WPNA. He did not want to proceed if the Neighborhood was against the garage. He met with Lee Carswell and told him what Pace wanted to do.
- Lee got the impression that the ball was rolling and said Ashworth Court needs to have a member on the NRC.
- John Barton – NRC made up of Anna plus 3 members from the following streets: Rilman, Wood Valley, Ashworth Court or Gatewood.
- Ann Wise says she wants what’s best for the neighborhood and will withdraw her name from consideration for the NRC.
- John Barton says the neighborhood agreement is to work with the neighborhood and Pace. An affirmative vote by 6 of the 8 members is required for anything to be approved.
- Anna makes a motion to appoint Lee Carswell to the Neighborhood Relations Committee. This would be fulfilling the only open seat on the Committee with Lee. Ann Wise will be recusing herself.
- John Barton asked if there is a term limit that members serve. All current Committee members were contacted before the meeting and all confirmed they would like to remain on the committee.
- Vote for Lee to be added to the committee was approved by 12 board members. 2 abstained.

Tom Tidwell on Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods:

- Tom says the BCN will be sponsoring a Mayoral Debate and is asking all neighborhoods to submit questions. There are 25 neighborhoods in the BCN and so far, 5 questions have been received.
- Tom would like to start an email train to get feedback. BCN will give the questions they receive to the candidates before the debates.
- Tom says to get back with him with any thoughts / questions before the debate.

New Business: None to Report

There being no additional business to come before the group, the Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM

Steve Dickson