

CRNA Board Meeting – Minutes

September 16, 2010

Attending Board Members: Marilyn Barbera, Pax Bobrow, Kevin Brown, Ariel Wallick Dorfman, Betty DiMarco, Andreas Hoffman, Anne Nicolay, Jerry Speir, Brad Wilkins, and Rick Wilkof.

Absent Board Members: Barry Brantley, Camilla Franklin, Rudolf Garrison, Byron Johnson, Liz Reed, and Betsy Weymann

Residents/Guests: Robert Bermudez, Sandy Brown, Jason Coleman, Mary DeWitt Dukes, Tilman Hardy, Martin Huber, Cindy Morse, Mary Robin-Perkins, Enrico Sterling, Susan Vogel, and Joseph Voltz

Finances. Treasurer Cindy Morse reported a bank balance of \$1546.

Committee Reports:

--Blight

Rico Sterling reported that the Mayor's office is planning to move aggressively on blight issues, with the first priority being those structures in "imminent danger of collapse." Suggestions for an imminent danger list should go to both Rico, in the Councilwoman's office ejsterling@cityofno.com and to Blight Committee Chair, Byron Johnson bjohnso2@bellsouth.net

--Communications

Pax reported that she is working toward a fall edition of the newsletter and needs articles. Deadline for articles is October 1.

Betty suggested that the newsletter include information on the other organizations operating within our area: Carrollton United, Palmer Park Neighborhood Assoc., and Pensiontown Neighborhood Assoc.

Anyone wishing to advertise should contact Pax at paxbobrow@yahoo.com Ads cost \$100. The newsletter is distributed to approximately 3000 households.

--Education

Ariel reported that the committee will be meeting within the next month. Working with Johnson School will be a substantial part of the focus.

--Priestley School Site

Anne noted that the committee is understand how the \$1.8 billion dollars recently announced for New Orleans schools will be spent and how it will affect the Priestley School site in particular.

Jerry reported that Johnson School administrators are arranging a meeting with Recovery School District officials, and Priestley School of Architecture and Construction administrators are arranging a meeting with the Orleans Parish School Board on this matter. He is encouraging each group to attend the other's meeting.

--Safety/Crime

Mary DeWitt Dukes reported that an NOPD detective is a specialist in security cameras and could speak to the group about the matter, but that he would only be interested if we were serious about establishing a neighborhood network. Brad and Anne noted that Oak Street has a network

Pax suggested putting an article in the newsletter to gauge interest.

--Zoning/Land Use

Marilyn noted that the planning for a new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance continues and pointed out a survey at www.nolamasterplan.org to which residents are encouraged to respond.

The survey seeks information on matters that are “in character” or “out of character” with the neighborhood in terms of building height, side yards, parking requirements, etc. It also seeks input on what makes a commercial establishment a good or bad neighbor, what kinds of developments might be appropriate in a neighborhood, etc. The survey is under the “What Do You Think?” tab on the “Welcome” page of the website.

Anyone interested in a fall tree-planting event should contact Marilyn directly at malybarbera@msn.com

--Executive Committee

Jerry reported that the Executive Committee met to plan a fall general meeting. The group decided that the Johnson School would be the preferable site, and Principal Wanda Brooks has agreed to the use of the school’s cafeteria for the event. It will be a pot-luck event focusing on the school, the new community schoolyard garden (see below), and such other topics as may be decided between now and then. An “open mike” has been suggested, to allow attendees to talk about their visions for the neighborhood association, the school, or whatever else they may wish to address. Date: a week night during the last week of October, specifics to be determined.

Old Business:

Mapping project: Pax reported that data is being collected. We hope to have the map for the general meeting.

Community Schoolyard Garden – Mary DeWitt reported on the project that has involved several CRNA members. The group has settled on a design drawn by Priestley School of Architecture and Construction students. The garden will occupy a space 30' X 160' alongside the school, on Hickory Street. The group is working with Parkway Partners, and is looking for neighbors and businesses who may want to help. Needs will include everything from mentors for the kids to the occasional use of a truck for hauling supplies. Anyone interested in helping should contact Mary DeWitt directly at mddukes2@aol.com

“1 by Youth” --Betty reported that the event is still scheduled for November 6, which could bring 300-400 youth to the area from faith-based organizations for a day of neighborhood clean-up and repairs. Details of the activities, and of CRNA's possible participation, are still being worked out.

New Business:

“Night Out Against Crime” – On motion by Anne, seconded by Pax, the group agreed to contribute \$50 to the Night Out Against Crime effort being coordinated by the Carrollton Area Network. The event will be in the late afternoon of Saturday, October 2d in Palmer Park.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 14, 7 p.m. In the back dining-room of Squeal Bar-B-Q, unless changed.

Minutes by Jerry Speir