

Thompson-Hunter Neighborhood Association

Dessert Meeting

Meeting Notes // February 18, 2013

Mt. Sinai Holy Church

Attendance: 15

Welcome & Roundtable Introductions

Courtney gave overview and written outline of the meeting agenda:

1. City Matching Grant Information
2. Neighborhood Developments (YWCA, Stones Warehouse & City-owned Martin St. lots)
3. THNA Board Elections
4. Community Watch Overview & Updates.

Matching Grant Discussion

City of Raleigh provides Neighborhood Improvement Grants up to \$1,000 for neighborhood associations; previously required 25% and now 50% match from the association. The matching portion includes financial as well as volunteer activities such as organizing, planning, distributing flyers, etc. Last year's matching grant award was used for the Fall Festival. Current options for using matching grant funds include (to apply for in July):

1. **Fall Festival:** Many present at meeting noted how well attended and community-building this event was last year. (John Schlimme noted how it could possibly grow into something similar to the Cooke Street festival offered at the same time last year which included entertainment and vendors.) There was some energy from all attendees around having a potluck-type festival instead and using some of the grant funds to pursue some of the other interests for well-being/safety of the community.
2. **Community Garden:** Vinson and Renee have ideas and energy around this. Renee likes the idea of beautification of the community. Lillie thinks vegetable garden could be useful. Some attendees noted that the InterFaith Food Shuttle has a garden in the middle of the block between Martin and Davie and Camden and Freeman, and Revelation FWB has previously tended a space for church members. (The board is going to follow up on these leads.)
3. **Neighborhood Trash Cans:** We could strategically place and purchase these. We could place them in high foot-traffic areas. (Arthur Graham inquired as to who would be responsible for emptying and said he would be willing to help with that aspect.) Courtney has had conversations with a city rep to determine if city trash pick-up is feasible.
4. **Neighborhood Signs:** Ashley Armstrong and Glenda Graham expressed interest in this. They liked idea and that this shows pride in the neighborhood. We could start with signs that hang from the traffic signals as enter areas, and as we develop/discover more expertise/talent, can design our own. Ashley stated that she will follow up with the city to determine what permits/permission we need in order to proceed.

Neighborhood Developments

1. **YWCA:** Wake Co. School Board has purchased 2 of these lots.
2. **Stones Warehouse:** The developers have gone before the City Council and have taken other necessary steps to move forward with their plans to transform this building into a multi-unit, low-income complex, aimed at the artist community. The developer will lease the building from the City for 99 years.
3. **Martin Street (6 city-owned lots):** Up for sale; city now taking requests for development. The city will

field ideas on this until the Fall so let's express neighborhood opinion about this (via meetings, email, phone) so that the board can communicate on behalf of the neighborhood on this.

THNA Board Elections

Offer to neighborhood residents for serving. Elections to be held April 15th for: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and other desired roles if there's enough interest. Board meetings are open; all owners and residents within the neighborhood boundaries can vote. To learn more, go to <http://www.thompson-hunter.org/thna-board/thna-board-elections>.

Community Watch Overview and Updates

Becky Harris passed out very impressive maps that delineate the Thompson-Hunter boundaries and blocks. The blocks are numbered and Block Captains are needed. Most captains would have no more than 10 houses/units to serve. Duties would include being a contact person for people on your block and helping your block be aware of and proactive about crime, etc. Contact Becky at communitywatch@thompson-hunter.org for more information.

The "SeeClickFix" portion of the THNA website was announced. It can be used to report criminal activity, unexplained loud noises, street light outages, etc. Go to <http://www.thompson-hunter.org/seeclickfix> to learn more.

REMINDER: MARCH 2, 2013 AT 9:00 a.m.: COMMUNITY CLEANUP!! Meet at Davie St. Park for coffee/donuts and supplies. This is a once-a-quarter community activity. Lasts about 1 hour and your help is appreciated.