

# Friends of Fourth Ward Board Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2015

## Present:

Boyd Holland, David Haynes, Rob Cummings, Gau Gupta, Patrick Long, Stephen Ricks, Tara McElroy, Jeremy Baldwin, Steven Hailey, Brian Phillips

## Also present:

Megan Liddle Gude (Charlotte Center City Partners), Chris Connolly (Safety & Security)

Boyd Holland called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

## Security Update

Chris Connolly introduced himself to the new board members and described his role in the neighborhood. Chris coordinates with our neighborhood outreach officer (V.K. Simpson) to track crime and cases that occur within Fourth Ward.

Chris does not currently have any cases that he is tracking through the justice system; it has been relatively quiet. Chris asked that any continual issues are forwarded on to him so he can provide additional attention.

David brought up a higher amount of foot traffic on 9<sup>th</sup> Street than usual. Chris reiterated calling 911 to address any suspicious persons loitering in the parks or on the street and to get more calls into the system.

An email from V.K. reported extremely low crime rates over the last month – 3 theft from autos and no burglaries.

## Housing First Initiative

Megan from Charlotte Center City Partners updated the board on the Housing First initiative. Due to an uptick in homelessness in the Charlotte area, over 25 agencies/service providers came together to discuss tackling homelessness as collaborative partners with the Urban Ministry Center leading the effort. Chronically homeless (homeless for more than a year or at least three times) are the main target due to research on resource allocation amongst the homeless with chronically homeless consuming the majority of services.

The Housing First initiative has a two year plan to provide permanent supportive housing with a proactive approach to services to keep those at risk in a home. As of now, 30 individuals have been moved into permanent housing since January. Several outreach coordinators have been hired to aid the effort. More news is to

come as fundraising will be kicking off to provide additional housing.

If Fourth Ward would like to get involved, donations are accepted and can be tagged for Housing First through the Urban Ministry Center. Other options include creating “Welcome Home Kits” to aid in the transition to housing.

Boyd asked for a summary of all the ways that we could help. The board can potentially send out postings via its social media mediums as well as bring in a speaker to the next neighborhood meeting to provide information to residents directly. The possibility of allocating direct funds was also mentioned.

## **Outreach Committee Contributions**

The Outreach Committee sent over three recommendations for donations to non-profits as well as one neighbor gift.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library requested \$2,500 to support the Carolina Room per the committee’s recommendation. A motion was raised to approve the funding and was unanimously approved.

JoeDance initially requested a \$5,000 donation. The Outreach committee recommended a lower amount (\$3,500) to allow for more donations within their set \$9,000 budget. A motion was raised to approve the funding and was unanimously approved.

The third request was for the St. Peter’s concert series. The Board has supported the series in the past and the current request is for \$1,500. A motion was raised to approve the funding and was unanimously approved.

The final request was to support a neighbor who has encountered several recent hardships. This neighbor is viewed as a valued resource in the community. The committee recommended \$250 for this resident. A motion was raised to approve the funding and was unanimously approved.

## **Garden Tour 2016**

Heath Knott has volunteered to co-chair the 2016 Garden Tour with an eye toward handing off any future Garden Tour events. The recommendation received from Beth (our outside contractor for organizing the Garden Tour and the Holiday Home Tour) is to pay a \$2,000 retainer to her in order to lay ground work in identifying gardens, potential committee members, sponsors, and work with our photographer (Austin Caine) to capture images of the neighborhood and its gardens in spring.

Rob recommended that we create a contract to handle ongoing events. Patrick volunteered to work with Eileen McElroy and Heath Knott (chair/co-chair of the Holiday Home Tour and the Garden Tour, respectively) to hash out an ongoing contract in order to mitigate risk. A motion was raised to pay the \$2,000 retainer and was unanimously approved.

## **New P.O. Box**

PO Box 220072

Charlotte, NC 28222

## **Street Signage Project**

Our historic street signs were lost when new light-poles were installed by Duke Energy. Duke will not allow our street signs to be placed on their new poles. As a result, Gau and Lynn Weis have identified all of the locations that need neighborhood signs and CDoT has already installed steel poles for the neighborhood to place 16 new signs. The new signs will match our existing signs designs and the supply of signs we were able to keep; eight of these signs need to be refreshed.

CDoT will provide the slates and the poles with FoFW initially covering the cost for the sign painting and installation. Gau has obtained two quotes for printing – (\$9,094.80 being the lowest quote). There is a process in place to get a reimbursement for our discarded property. Lynn Weiss and Keenya Justice have volunteered to spearhead the effort to receive reimbursement.

The board moved to approve the lowest bid in order to replace our signs.

## **Membership One-Pager**

David and Patrick produced a summary of all the benefits of membership in the Friends of Fourth Ward. As a result of the group's efforts, over \$4k in condo dues have been paid and a sharp uptick in donations through PayPal with over half of all donations being over the old \$20 suggested donation amount.

## **Street Lighting Installation**

Duke has a work order in to install two new light poles near 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Poplar. No funds have been requested from the FoFW as of yet. Brian will follow up to verify the placement of the poles and whether or not two will be enough for the area.

## **Parking Permits**

Megan has done some digging to unearth the history of our parking permits. The original intent of the parking program in Fourth Ward was to provide parking to residences that do not have their own specific parking garages or lots. The board has discussed implementing a formal policy and Megan has created a document to lay out the suggestions. Boyd suggested we review the document produced by Megan and submit any changes prior to the next meeting wherein we will vote on the policies.

## **Walking Tour Update**

Revisions continue to occur on the four documents. An updated file will be sent out by Boyd.

### **Past President Bricks**

\$2,025 was spent to order the bricks for all of the past presidents.

Boyd Holland adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Stephen Ricks