

Friends of Fourth Ward Board Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2015

Present:

Boyd Holland, David Haynes, Rob Cummings, Patrick Long, Jeremy Baldwin, Keenya Justice, Steve Hailey, Gau Gupte – 8 members present.

Also present:

Megan Liddle Gude (Charlotte Center City Partners), V.K. Simpson (CMPD), Sarah Kennard (Community Outreach Committee)

Boyd Holland called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM

Security Update

V.K. provided an update on the state of safety and security in the neighborhood. There was one larceny from auto reported. Larceny is down due to a decline in the vagrant population. V.K. emphasized locking your automobiles as a theft deterrent.

Charitable Contribution

Sarah Kennard provided a budget update on charitable contributions. \$9,000 is available for 2015 and not yet committed. Sarah will confirm the designated recipients for 2014, St. Peters, JoeDance, and the Main Library, received their checks for 2014. JoeDance is the only organization with a request submitted for 2015 in the amount of \$5,000. Diane Restaino presented the request during the January meeting and the Board deferred to the Community Outreach Committee for review. On behalf of the committee, Sarah communicated \$3,500 is an appropriate amount to contribute to JoeDance. The Board agreed and Sarah will follow up with JoeDance. St. Peters has a pending request but it was not presented to the Board during the meeting. Sarah will continue to reach out to organizations in the Fourth Ward who may not be aware of FoFW, including Edwin Towers and Charlotte Ballet.

Parks and Rec. Update

The health of trees in the Fourth Ward Park is being assessed and certain trees deemed to pose a concern are removed. Boyd to forward the correspondence he received from the Parks and Rec. dept. to Board. The correspondence also noted the Parks and Rec. dept.'s continued solicitation for memorial bricks. Rob asked if the \$50 per memorial brick has been reinvested into the park to which Boyd responded he will follow up to confirm.

Neighborhood Meeting

The next neighborhood meeting is confirmed at Duckworth's on Monday, March, 30, 2015. The meeting is scheduled to take place between 6-8 PM with a social hour taking place from 6-7 PM. Megan offered to have members of Urban Ministry or other similar organizations speak at any one of FoFW's upcoming neighborhood meetings.

Walking Tour

Gau proposed installation of two kiosks and trifold brochures that will feature homes in the Fourth Ward with the historic designation while a QR code will be included on the kiosks and brochure. Upon scanning the QR code with a smartphone, a guest will be directed to FoFW's website which will highlight upcoming events associated with the neighborhood and also provide a link to information about additional homes not featured on the kiosks/brochures. Gau distributed renderings of the kiosk and trifold brochure concepts and indicated once the text is finalized, quotes will be obtained for the kiosks. Gau requested a motion to approve the kiosks, brochures, and the concept of a link to the website. David motioned for approval and the Board unanimously approved. Board members are to review the renderings and provide any comments to Gau by end of the week.

Membership Drive

David has placed signs in Fourth Ward but is receiving little interest. He posted on Nextdoor and received three new members. David encouraged the Board to post on Nextdoor to encourage membership interest. Patrick has noticed many residents who live in condo/apartment buildings assume if their HOA has paid in the past, they still have membership. Rob requested any invoice requests be sent to him and he will distribute to HOAs for membership dues. Megan to upload HOA contacts for condos/apartments to Dropbox.

Light poles/Street Signs

Duke Energy replaced all light poles in 4th Ward and in the process, discarded any decorative Fourth Ward signs that were not the reflective green color. There are several streets in the Fourth Ward that do not have street signs. Gau suggested FoFW pay for the decorative work to be completed on the signs, and provide to Duke Energy to install on the light poles. Kenya will explore whether FoFW has any recourse regarding Duke Energy taking property FOFW previously paid for.

Megan reminded the Board, 7th Street is missing several light poles. Duke Energy will cover the cost of installing basic cobra lights, and any incremental cost for decorative lights will be the responsibility of FoFW.

Pinewood/Elmwood Cemetery

Megan provided an update on the cemetery advising the Board the cemetery is city owned and not high on its priority list as far as updating. Center City Partners is working with the City to determine how to update the walking tour to highlight the history/significance of the cemetery. The goal is to renew interest and awareness in the cemetery prior to hosting events there.

Parking Permits

Based on precedence, Megan recommends Steve Laco's request for a parking permit be denied because his building has its own parking. 2012 was the last time a request was presented to the Board to add an extra permit that was not issued the prior year. At the time, the Board discussed adopting an official review process for approving/denying permit requests. Stephen Ricks and Megan will outline a process and make a recommendation to the Board regarding a parking permit approval process.

Communications Committee

Boyd to send email newsletter out this evening. Boyd put together Communications Committee plan for Tara, Jeremy and Stephen.

Presidential Recognition

At the January meeting, the Board unanimously approved an initiative to install bricks in the Fourth Ward Park recognizing past FoFW presidents. Rob indicated he has a list of past presidents but some of the terms are uncertain and Presidents are unknown for some of the years. The list will be shared at Monday's neighborhood meeting for residents to assist in identifying any past presidents that are not known. Rob suggested the Board decide where in the park to install the bricks.

Boyd Holland adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM.

All Board members in attendance walked to the Fourth Ward Park to identify a location for the Presidential bricks.

A location along the pathway on the east side of the Park near W 7th Street and Park Place Townhomes was identified and unanimously approved by the Board.

Minutes submitted by: Steve Hailey