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ONDNA Board meeting, November 15, 2005

Attendees:

Liz Paley, Heather Flanagan, Jerry Gershenhorn, Helena Cragg, Shannon Thornberg, Nancy Kimberly, Liana, Denise, Leslye, John Worley, Richard Mullinax, Jen Poole, Len Stanley

*Guest: Vicky Patton, director of the board of Central Park School,
 re: CPS hopes/DPR plans for soccer field in OND park

- 180'x330' soccer field
- the city is proposing to put \$100K in to a sprinkler system, and have this in use for leagues, both adult and junior league
- request is that ONDNA support a motion to stop the current plans for the park and instead hire a planner to make it more broadly useful
 - some points include: not enough parking for large soccer field; no bathrooms, tho' they will "try" to get portajons; neighborhood survey indicated a request for more informal space (tennis in fact came in higher than soccer); studies show that informal park space encourages safer neighborhoods
 - rationale from city planning is that city-wide, we need more soccer fields; one comment from attendees here is that there are no athletic fields in any of the nearby fields; Beth said they will try to work an agreement with TROSA to use their parking
- FIFA minimum guidelines for adult male fields is 50 yards by 100 yards
- Liz will email Beth asking about how often she thinks the field will be booked and what the fee structure is; also find out exactly what the \$100K is for, what it will cover; Vicky will send further info
- if anything is going to change, the neighborhood has to dig in hard to get this changed; it needs to be done with Central Park; note that the board did send in a request for a soccer field this summer but its unclear if we understood it was going to be league soccer; this is 1996 BOND money, it has already gone out to bid once and didn't get any response, and now it is going out to bid again; nothing is actually final until money exchanges hands and construction equipment shows up
- noting that more families and neighborhood kids are showing up to play on the park equipment

*ONDNA budget report

- \$5650 balance; total expenses last year was \$2700, mostly BOND
- note that we have the home tour coming up this fiscal year; we may want to set aside funds for the tour, maybe as a sponsor which usually costs \$1000; home tour is May 6, 2006; maybe rent the trolley
- could do \$200 for Calvary, \$1200 for the rest of our half of the pillar, and still have about \$1000 for the home tour
 - Board has approved \$200 to Calvary and \$1200 for the rest of our half of the pillar

*Auction results/feedback/fallout

- auction raised \$3183
- some concern about how the Mystery Box was presented; perhaps

*Farmer's Market Pavilion pillar & other things to put auction funds toward

- up to \$1340 today; need \$2500 total for our half of a pillar
- Liz will call SelfHelp will still do matching grants; also checking with Duke Park to see if they still want to go in on this

*Possible traffic circle at Trinity and Glendale

- Duke Park people have liked their traffic circle; it does seem to make traffic better, but doesn't seem to slow traffic down more broadly; trucks seem to avoid traffic circle; for the traffic at Markham and Glendale, more signage might help direct traffic
 - if the goal is traffic calming, and there is no evidence that it is more broadly slowing traffic down, we need to revisit what our real goal is - make the intersection safer, make the traffic slower, what? Why this particular intersection? Are we looking at a series of them? there was concern about traffic at this specific section of Trinity; note that traffic humps can damage vehicles where traffic circles don't
 - has anyone asked the neighbors at that intersection on Trinity and Glendale? Liana to ask folks; Len seems to recall that most of the houses at that corner are rentals
 - downsides: people don't know how to use them, not particularly attractive in its temporary form
 - is there going to be a scientific method to determine if this works to make it permanent? neighborhood will need to work for it
 - could they just use stop signs? not enough cross traffic to make it worthwhile (Glendale traffic in this case)
 - will need to find out how many parking spaces will be lost for this
- * proposal: Liz, Liana, Jen will get people to survey people on the blocks and see what the majority would support

*Nominations for board positions?

*M&M Mini Mart

- request is to send a letter to Patrick Baker requesting the closure of the M&M; word on the street is this is the place to get bullets and guns in the store; Richard to confirm with the police about activities really going on;
- if crime is statistically down thanks to nuisance abatement, we are not comfortable writing a letter; need actual evidence
 - "nuisance abatement" allows Mr. Baker to take property away from owners who are participating in public endangerment

*N&O The Durham News delivery issues

- Board has approved sending another letter to the N&O

*Luminarias/caroling update

- Leslye has contacted people about sand; scheduled for Dec 11; Duke Park also doing this on Dec 11; rain date a week later

*December potluck update

- how about a boxing day potluck? no one would be here; since we have such a big November event, we're going to cancel potluck

*Membership update

- currently have 50 members; membership renewal will be on a calendar year

*BOND update

- can not get the BOND date without December potluck date; nev' mind about the date

*HPSD OND tour

- had first steering committee meeting for the Home Tour; Ellen Cassily is the chair; now just brainstorming ideas on what to do; actual tour is May 6; HPSD is very interested in having the neighborhood be a big partner in this; will need volunteers to help for more than just the docent stuff
- this is the HPSD's largest fundraiser of the year, and they are worried that they won't raise as much in this neighborhood;
- some brainstorm ideas: get classic car clubs to park cars on the streets; will be closing some of the streets to make it a better walking tour; maybe have a trolley running up and down; looking for a theme; needs to be more than just 'here are our houses'; need to stress that we are part of downtown, need to take on some of the cheerleading to push this forward; how to market this even bigger???

*UDO

- Liz will send a letter before City Council meeting on Dec 5 on behalf of neighborhood assoc. supporting UDO