

	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Madison Park Monthly Association Meeting</b>	
	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday, July 13th, 2009</b>	
	<b>Time:</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	
	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Wedgewood Baptist Church Annex</b>	
	<b>Presenters:</b>		
	Meeting Chair: Ken Davis		<b>Attendee Count:</b> <b>26 members</b> <b>2 police officers</b>
	Guest Speakers: Donald Moore, Andy Dulin,		
<a href="http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/charlotte/madisonpk/">http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/charlotte/madisonpk/</a>			
<b>Agenda:</b>			

**Welcome Meeting brought to order by Ken Davis, President**

### **1. Crime Report- given by Officer Hairston**

Incidents reported below cover early June through July 12<sup>th</sup>:

800 Seneca – traffic stop, drug arrest, did not live in Madison Park  
 300 Seneca – damage to property, front window broken  
 1200 Cary Ct. – vehicle theft, recovered  
 5000 Murrayhill – larceny from home, no forced entry, dispute amongst residents of the property  
 5500 Murrayhill – hit and run, neighbors assisted in arrest by calling 911, perpetrator apprehended after a pursuit on foot in the 5000 block of Wedgewood  
 500 Woodlawn – traffic stop, drug arrest  
 500 Woodlawn – assault on female, victim knew perpetrator  
 5310 Farmbrook – vehicle theft, recovered  
 4700 Lamont – traffic stop, drug arrest

Officer Hairston noted that there were **no reported larcenies from autos** for over a month. This is especially significant given that the reporting period covered the weeks after schools had closed for the summer.

At the end of Officer Hairston's crime report, Councilman Andy Dulin asked the police sergeant present to comment with her observations regarding what would appear to be an overall decrease in crime in our district. The sergeant observed that there are many ways to look at the crime statistics. Yet, her view from the streets and from the reports she had reviewed (including tonight's) points to a decrease in crime levels. To quote the sergeant, "There are more boots on the street." Officer Hairston then commented on the efficacy of electronic monitoring of curfew-restricted individuals and those out on bond awaiting trial. He noted that the GPS-equipped bracelets have the capability – in real time – to place an individual at the scene of a theft from auto within two parking spaces of the actual position of the car. Essentially, officers could be dispatched to talk with an individual wearing a bracelet and observed to be slowly strolling the parking lot of Park Road S/C.

#### **Note to residents:**

PLEASE do not leave valuables in your car, regardless of whether it is locked or not. This includes cell phones, i-Pods, GPS devices, CDs, etc. These items are easily portable for you, and also for thieves. If you must leave them in your car, please make sure they are not in plain sight; do everything you can to keep them from being visible to someone who walks up and looks in your car. Lock them in the trunk; put them in the glove box, or even better, take them inside your house and **always** lock your car! It takes only a few seconds to smash a window, unlock a door, and grab an item out of a car.

Cars parked on the street are especially vulnerable. But, items have been taken from cars parked in carports and driveways. So, no one is immune. Safeguard your property. If there are no items in your car to steal, eventually they will either stop trying or move to another neighborhood where people are more careless.

If you leave items in your car, or visible in your car, you are basically assuring that you will be the victim of a crime. We live in a very safe neighborhood; but, for anyone who is looking for something to steal, it takes very little temptation to make them do it!

**2. Special Guest – Donald Moore, Code Enforcement officer for Madison Park**

Mr. Moore gave a brief update on Enforcement issues in the Neighborhood:

- Illegal signs are a constant problem city wide, Madison Park has its share of violators
- there appears to be a weekly yard sale/flea market at Yorktown and Tyvola
- there appears to be a lawn mower repair shop in the 5400 block of Wedgewood

Overall, code enforcement issues are currently down in the neighborhood. [We must give more than a measure of credit to Mr. Moore for his vigilance and persistence in performing the duties of his office.]

**3. Special Guest – Andy Dulin, Charlotte City Council District 6**

Mr. Dulin rose to address the attendees. He noted that this was one of the few meetings of the HOA that he could make given the usual Monday evening conflict with City Council meetings. He thanked the HOA for again welcoming him to speak. In keeping his comments very brief, he noted that the “taco wagons have been moved” (off South Blvd.), that he also agreed with the police officers that crime was down (and, down on a city-wide basis) and that he would be filing for re-election to District 6 on Tuesday. In handing out his business cards, he encouraged us to call him with any concerns. He sat down and stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

**4. Neighborhood Updates**

**a. Holiday Social**

We discussed the possibility of moving the holiday social to the Queens' University facility in December. The point was made that the entrance to the facility is not accessible from eastbound Tyvola Road, and residents would be forced to either drive through the neighborhood to Park Road and then right on Tyvola, or make a U-turn at Park & Tyvola to come back up to the complex. Since everyone is familiar with the current location at Wedgewood Baptist, the decision was made to keep the holiday social at the church annex as has been tradition in the past.

**b. Update on All-Stops in the neighborhood**

We will begin the petitioning process for the 4-way stop at Murrayhill and Wedgewood, as well. Residents who live around that intersection will all receive a postcard announcing the change and with contact information to voice any support or concerns. I have begun working with Chip Gallup to get this process rolling, which is especially timely considering there was a bad accident at the Murrayhill/Wedgewood intersection two weekends ago (see Crime Report – 5500 Murrayhill hit and run), and expect the petition postcards to go out within the next month.

**c. Update on Pinewood Elementary School Facility:**

At the May meeting, a resident raised a question regarding the large pile of dirt behind the school, specifically asking what the plans are for that “attractive nuisance”. A resident also asked after the meeting what the plans were for the retaining fence that has fallen over and rusted. I followed up with Mike Raible with CMS in July, as follows:

Mr. Raible:

Thank you for your response some weeks back to Jane Childrey's inquiry regarding the continued use of the Pinewood Elementary facility.

Given that the facility will remain in limited use for the foreseeable future, several of our residents have asked if there is a potential to have the huge pile of dirt, as well as the erosion control fencing, removed from that field. We continue to have children using the dirt pile as a biking 'experience' and several residents have expressed concerns that someone may end up getting hurt. The dirt is certainly not enhancing the neighborhood; our understanding was that it was to be used for ball fields when the school was torn down per the original plans.

Given that the plans for that facility have now changed and the space will continue to be used for

swing space, etc., would it be possible to address the removal of the excess dirt? I know that CMS is working within budget constraints this year; however, this was empty, level field at this location before the school was planned for demolition, and now that those plans have again changed, our neighborhood would like to have it restored and the hazards associated with the current status, removed.

I'd appreciate any feedback you could provide, so that I can relay this to our association members.

## **5. Old Business**

No old business this month.

## **6. New Business**

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** We currently have \$1,161.87 in our account with three reimbursements outstanding for the May picnic. The HOA has 51 paid members. If you have not already done so, please pay your 2009 dues – they are due each year, in January, but are accepted throughout the current year, renewing in January. Membership forms are available on the community resource table located at the back of the meeting room at each meeting, as well as online at <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/charlotte/madisonpk/>. You may complete an application at your convenience and mail it and your check to Madison Park HOA, PO Box 242432, Charlotte, NC 28244.

- b. **Off-cycle Meeting of the Board of Directors**

The Madison Park HOA Board held an off-cycle meeting on Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at Dee McCandlish's home, at 7:00 pm. Two items were brought before the Board for discussion – Wedgewood Baptist Church and National Night Out.

### **Wedgewood Baptist Church – Rental Payment**

Our policy in the past has been to make a donation, whenever we had excess money in the bank, to help offset the cost of them providing HVAC, restrooms and the meeting space itself. We have been meeting in the space for 10 years, and averaging \$75 per year in a donation to the church.

Given recent economic stresses, the church has begun asking us to pay \$35 per month for rent of the space, for a total of \$420 per year. The Board held lengthy discussions via email as well as at the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made to offer the church \$25 per month, for a total of \$300 per year. The Board voted unanimously to proceed with that offer. I contacted Marge Fowler, who is the volunteer secretary for Wedgewood Baptist, and she is presenting our offer to the Pastor, who is expected to accept the offer. We did not offer to pay retroactively, but if pursued, we may need to incur that expense to maintain goodwill with the church.

### **National Night Out**

The Board also discussed the concerns that have been raised concerning National Night Out. Our bank account has just over \$1,000 in it at this time. Given the request from Wedgewood Baptist to begin paying rent for the space, the Board felt that we would be basically emptying the association's checking account to continue to move forward with the National Night Out event. Everyone seems to have a good time at NNO, but given our current financial standing, the Board felt that it would not be responsible to proceed with the event this year. A motion was made, voted upon and carried unanimously, to forego the event this year due to funding constraints and lack of corporate sponsorships. The only corporate sponsors that we were able to secure commitments from was the Showmar's on Emerywood, and Charlotte Parks & Recreation.

In lieu of National Night Out, the suggestion was made that we consider holding a Fall event, scaled back somewhat, for our community. That event is currently being planned for Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – venues are the Wedgewood Baptist Church parking lot, or the possibility of using the shelter at Park Road Park that is used for the Spring Picnic event. If you have suggestions for activities, etc., please let us know!

**c. Fundraising****Madison Park Memberships**

We have noticed a definite decline in memberships to the Madison Park HOA and will be discussing several options with regard to getting our memberships back up to a level to fund our neighborhood activities. Among the discussions: Providing the ability for members to pay their dues on-line voluntarily, and also the ability to send reminders with payment links to our members. We now have a PayPal account set up and are awaiting validation of the account. Once we have that, the PayPal logo will be visible on our website and can be used as links in our communications.

**7. Open Discussion:**

Neighbors broached the following concerns: What traffic calming measures (if any) have been considered for the intersection of Murrayhill and White Oak? Neighbors (?) driving toward Murrayhill on White Oak tend to pick up speed going down the hill and neighbors (or, cut-through traffic) driving toward Wedgewood on Murrayhill have to stop and look up the hill at a difficult angle in order to clear the visually their right of way. The installation of a stop sign for the White Oak drivers would appear to be warranted.

Also, a neighbor asked about the progress of the Murrayhill sidewalk project. No new information was available other than giving assurance that the project was proceeding according to its timetable. The neighbor expressed that he was ready to have his portion of the sidewalk finished.

**8. Introduction of Candidates for Public office**

Georgia Belk rose to announce that she was running at-large for a seat on the City Council.

Jane Bott Childrey rose to announce that she was running for the City Council District 6 seat held by Andy Dulin. Jane has attended several meetings of the HOA to date. Her platform included concern for creating jobs.

**Any New Members/First Time Attendees**

None were in attendance.

**Adjournment:** Time: 8:15pm