

Cool Spring/Tilton Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2011

Attendees: See attached list.

1. Welcome

Meeting chair Clara Zahradnik (President – CS/TNA) welcomed CS/TNA meeting attendees.

2. Announcements

- Christmas caroling – December 11
For the annual CS/TNA Christmas caroling event, carolers will meet at the home of Robin Williams (1212 McCoy Way) to enjoy four soups, bread, and salad at 4:30-6:15 p.m. Please bring bread or salad to share. Due to scheduling conflicts in the healthcare centers, carolers will split into two groups to sing at Ingleside at 6:30 p.m. and at Regency Healthcare at 6:45 p.m. Dessert will be at Jennifer and John Trickey's home (1305 W. 11th Street) at 7:15 p.m. Desserts can be dropped off at the Trickey's between 4:00-4:30 p.m.
Christmas caroling is a traditional, fun-filled activity of the Cool Spring/Tilton neighborhood and all residents are encouraged to join the group for all or part of the festivities.
- Proposed change in CS/TNA by-laws
At the November 8, 2011 CS/TNA meeting, a motion was moved and seconded that Article III—Community Boundary (regarding the area served by CS/TNA) in the CS/TNA By-laws be changed to include both sides of 6th Street and McCoy Way. Clara Zahradnik read aloud the current and proposed Article III as follows:

Current Article III: The Community served by this Association (the "Community") includes that area within the City of Wilmington, Delaware which extends from the north side of Sixth Street northward to Pennsylvania Avenue and from Jackson Street westward to Rodney Street.

Proposed Article III: The Community served by this Association (the "Community") includes that area within the City of Wilmington, Delaware which includes streets from Sixth Street northward to Pennsylvania Avenue and from Jackson Street westward to Rodney Street plus McCoy Way.

A motion to accept the proposed change in Article III of the by-laws was voted on through a written ballot, as required by the By-laws, with the following results:

In favor: 18 attendees

Opposed: 5 attendees

Abstained: 1 attendee

Motion passed.

3. Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the November 8, 2011 CS/TNA meeting were posted on the CS/TNA website and at the Regency Healthcare meeting room entry for all residents to read prior to the December 6th meeting. Clara Zahradnik asked if any modifications/additions/deletions to the minutes were recommended. Since no changes were suggested, she asked for a motion to accept the minutes.

Hal Schnelkert made a motion to accept the November 8, 2011 CS/TNA meeting minutes and Jim Dolan seconded the motion.

In favor: All attendees

Opposed: None

Motion passed.

4. Neighborhood Planning Councils

Two representatives of the City of Wilmington Neighborhood Planning Councils (NPC), Harold (Hal) Schnelkert (President, 8th District NPC) and Jerome Brown (Chair, 5th District NPC) updated meeting attendees on the purpose, mission, and accomplishments of the NPC.

Hal Schnelkert discussed the purpose of the NPC as:

- To make the City more responsive to the needs of residents and neighborhoods by advising the City's administration, particularly the Mayor's office, on matters to improve the quality of life through small capital projects. The NPCs serve as a conduit to convey the ideas of civic associations to the city administration. The City looks favorably on projects sponsored by NPCs.
- To develop a problem-solving partnership with neighborhood residents and government to address problems the community cannot resolve itself. NPCs partner with civic/neighborhood associations to determine needs and then works with the City to implement projects to address these needs.
- To develop a comprehensive blue print for neighborhood revitalization.
- To inform and consult neighborhood residents about City activities and initiatives.

The mission of the NPCs is to provide leadership, working with the City's administration, in initiating a community-wide planning process to address the physical, social, and economic needs of the community. Through their leadership, all segments of the community will participate in developing a neighborhood plan to improve their community for themselves, their families, and their neighborhoods.

Past accomplishments cited by Mr. Schnelkert and Mr. Brown include:

- New lights for Cool Spring Park. New bases of lights were needed and the CS/TNA requested the 8th District NPC to fund a program to purchase these new bases.
- Improved lighting on Kentmere Parkway and on 4th Street north of Greenhill Avenue through efforts of the 8th District NPC.
- Improvements in Trolley Square. This was a collaborative effort between the 8th District NPC and Transportation Enhancement Initiative.
- Partial refurbishing of Tilton Park with new benches and lighting at park entrances. Work was accomplished through efforts of the 5th District NPC.
- Creation of a new park on Connell Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets. Work was accomplished through the efforts of the 5th District NPC.
- Refurbishing of lights along 6th Street through the work of the 5th District NPC.
- Development of a low cost program for pet spaying and neutering to qualified applicants. The NPCs partnered with SPCA on this program.
- Purchase of new signage for dog litter.
- Planting on street medians.
- Efforts to decrease commercial or multi-family zoning in selected areas.

Funding for NPCs had originated from a 2004 bond issue; however, this money has been spent. A recent bond issue did not include NPC as a designate since, as explained by Councilman Bud Freel and Alfred Lance, monies are usually designated for improvements involving transportation, water, etc. Thus, no designated capital funding is currently available for NPCs but some money may become available through analysis and consolidation of capital projects. Because of this decrease in funding, NPCs currently act more as an advocacy group for constituents. Chuck Dorman suggested that a small percentage of our tax revenue should go to NPCs to implement long-term projects. Representative Gerald Brady noted that some NPC projects can be accomplished without money.

Ellen Priest raised the question as to the relationship between civic associations and NPCs. Clara Zahradnik stated that multiple civic associations are included in each NPC (for example, the 8th District NPC encompasses five major civic associations). Further, civic associations appoint representatives to the NPCs. CS/TNA asked for volunteers for representatives and Joe Grey represents CS/TNA in the 8th District NPC and Judy Fardoulis represents CS/TNA in the 5th District NPC. NPC meetings are held on the second Monday of every month for nine months of the year and all residents are welcome to express their ideas and concerns. Ellen Priest suggested that CS/TNA should rethink how the representatives represent the CS/TNA opinions.

In answer to a question regarding the organization of NPCs, Clara Zahradnik explained that Sophia Hanson (shanson@WilmingtonDE.gov) has further information on this topic and the City Planning Department has the By-laws for NPCs.

In answer to a question by Alfred Lance if a list of projects to be funded was available, Jerome Brown explained that a number of projects are waiting to be funded. For example, in the 5th District NPC, a major initiative is to have more single family, rather than multi-family, dwellings. New restrictions are now in place regarding NPC funds so that no NPC monies can be used on private properties and projects developed by NPCs must involve public spaces.

5. State of Delaware House of Representatives Tribute to CS/TNA

Representative Brady read aloud the following proclamation that congratulated CS/TNA for Wilmington Renaissance Corporation's Wilmington 2011 CityLife Award that recognized Cool Spring/Tilton as the 2011 Neighborhood of the Year and CS/TNA as a very active and effective organization. Clara Zahradnik thanked Representative Brady for this recognition.

STATE OF DELAWARE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tribute. Be it hereby known to all that the House of Representatives acknowledges the Cool Spring/Tilton Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood of the Year, Wilmington Renaissance Corporation's 2011 CityLife Awards. As the recipient of this special award, we commend this wonderful organization for their outstanding efforts in improving the condition of their neighborhood. Their dedication and commitment in providing a friendly, safe environment, ensures the residents a wonderful place to live! Best wishes for continued success! The House of Representatives extends its sincere congratulations and directs this tribute be issued on the 1st day of November 2011. (Signed: Robert F. Gilligan, Speaker of the House; Richard L. Puffer, Chief Clerk of the House; Representative Gerald L. Brady, Sponsor.) Number H146-1010.

6. CS/TNA Standing Committees

In a continuation of discussion from the November 8, 2011 meeting on the formation of standing committees, attendees voiced ideas on potential committees. Four committees were initially proposed: communication, public safety, housing, and social. Clara Zahradnik suggested that three committees would be appropriate and manageable for the civic association and emphasized that each committee must develop a mission, goals, and timelines to be effective. Discussion centered on when to winnow the number of committees to three from the original four (i.e., either at the current December meeting or at the January, 2012 meeting). Since several residents explained that they were attending the current meeting to volunteer for committees, attendees decided that a decision on committees should be made at this time and that the following committees should be formed with the indicated contact persons.

- Communication/social events -- Chuck Dorman (cdva130@yahoo.com)
- Public safety -- Ted Jacoby (tedjacoby@gmail.com)
- Housing -- Krista Holub (kholub@gmail.com)

Clara Zaharadnik noted that each contact person will get the committee started and individuals who would like to work on one of these committees should send an email to the contact person. Then, at the January meeting, the contact person will report on progress to the entire group of attendees.

7. New Business

- Planning is underway for the summer 2012 Cool Spring Farmers' Market. The 2011 Farmers' Market was successful enough to have the vendors return in 2012. Hayley Schmittinger (Director, Life Lines West End Neighborhood House, Inc. 302.658.4171 x181) would appreciate everyone's ideas and input for the 2012 Farmers' Market to make this year's market even better and invites you to complete the "Survey Monkey" at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K2KQG5Z>.
- Attendees applauded Vice-President Heather Hook's email offering to alert our community police about residents who are out-of-town for a period.
- Sandy Dolan reported that robbers are stealing central air-conditioners for scrap metal in her area and warned attendees to report any incidents they observe to the police.
- Councilman Sammy Prado noted that public comments from residents on issues and concerns regarding Wilmington are invited on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at City Hall.
- In appreciation for the excellent job Cool Spring/Tilton community police officer Cpl. Michael Rinehart is doing in our community, several attendees suggested some sort of small remuneration; however, this must be considered in light of restrictions on gifts to City employees and will be reviewed further.

Attendees

Dennis Gallagher
Gary Hutt
Barbara Dunn
John Shaw
Jim Eversmann
Chuck Dorman
Krista Holub
Amy O'Neill
David Schelat
Alfred Lance
Seth and Meghan Geist
Ellen Priest
Jim and Sandra Dolan
Robin Williams
Henry Smith, III
Joe Grey
Eric Zumsteg
John and Judy Fardoulis
Heather Hook
Clara Zahradnik
Connie Smith

Neighborhood Planning Council

Jerome Brown
Hal Schnelkert

Elected Officials

State Representative Gerald Brady
Councilman Bud Freel
Councilman Sammy Prado