

Cool Spring/Tilton Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2013; 7:15 p.m.

Regency Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center

Wilmington, DE

Attendees: See attached list.

1. Welcome

Meeting chair Regina Lafferty (Vice-President – CS/TNA) welcomed CS/TNA meeting attendees, asked attendees to sign the attendance sheet, and asked anyone wishing to discuss new business to sign in for new business to ensure that the topic would be addressed. She noted that Heather Hook (President – CS/TNA) could not attend this month's meeting due to a work commitment. R. Lafferty called attendees' attention to the back of the Agenda which listed "CSTNA Fridge-worthy Contact Information" which is very useful. She also asked residents to join CS/TNA and pay their dues by cash, check, or Paypal.

2. Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the June 11, 2013 CS/TNA meeting were e-mailed to Cool Spring/Tilton Park neighborhood residents, paper copies were distributed at the meeting for attendees to read, and minutes were posted at the Regency Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center meeting room entry for all attendees to read prior to the September 10th meeting. R. Lafferty asked if any corrections to the minutes were recommended and since no changes were suggested, she asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Rob Pfeiffer made a motion to accept the June 11, 2013 CS/TNA meeting minutes and Bethany Roberts seconded the motion.

Motion passed by majority of attendees.

3. Officers' Reports

Treasurers' Report

Rob Tietze (CS/TNA Treasurer) presented the CS/TNA Budget Summary. CS/TNA total revenue minus expenses is \$3,592. There are a few paid-up memberships. He requested ideas as to how to responsibly spend some of our revenue.

4. Nominations

Laura Philon and Greg Luna have been in charge of nominations for the CS/TNA. L. Philon reported the following nominations:

President	Greg Luna
Vice-President	Bethany Roberts
Treasurer	Regina Lafferty
Secretary	Stephanie Smith

R. Lafferty asked for other nominations from the attendees. Since there were none, these nominations stand. Since only one person was nominated for each office, the person nominated will hold office for 2013-2014. Elections will occur at the October CS/TNA meeting and the new officers will take office at the November, 2013 meeting.

5. Update on Wilmington Farmers' Market at Cool Spring and Community Garden

Mike McCafferty thanked everyone for their patronage at the Farmers' Market and for putting signs on their lawns. Several improvements were made to the Market this year including more vendors and entertainment including bands and face painting for children.

A few issues arose: One Porta-Potty is now available rather than two and the sandwich boards for advertisements are set on the side of the sidewalks so as not to block the sidewalks.

He noted that Hockessin has asked him about establishing a Farmers' Market in their area in light of the success and popularity of the Cool Spring Farmers Market.

In an update on the Community Garden at Rodney Reservoir, McCafferty noted that this season was very rainy and weeds and insects have been problematic, the Gardens were nominated for Best Garden, Bright Spot Ventures established more beds and have been selling their produce at the Cool Spring Farmers' Market with \$500.00 in produce sold last week, and Bright Spot Ventures are now selling large potted chrysanthemums (\$4.00) at the Farmers' Market.

Bright Spot Ventures have built a Hoop House (greenhouse with plastic cover) so the Bright Spot Ventures group will keep busy in the colder weather.

Paul Calistro and McCafferty have a meeting with the City of Wilmington administration regarding the Cool Spring Farmers' Market so please let the office of Mayor Williams know how much you have enjoyed the Market.

6. Department of Parks and Recreation

Claude McCrea, Jr., Director of City of Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation, updated attendees on the activities of the Department of Parks and Recreation and requested input. Several issues were raised:

There is an issue with the bushes around the entrance to Tilton Park and there was a difference in opinion of residents concerning if the bushes should be taken out or maintained. Possibly different bushes can be put at the entrance so they are low growing. McCrea explained that for maintenance, the problem is money since no money is available for such maintenance.

The lighting issue has been resolved so Tilton Park is now well-lit.

There is a drainage issue with a clogged drain due to wood chips in the playground area.

McCrea noted that a possible solution to the park issues would be for one custodian to look after Tilton Park, Cool Spring Park, and Father Tucker Park. Canby Park has three custodians since that is a large park. The Department of Parks and Recreation looks after lower Cool Spring Park.

Clara Zahradnik noted that bushes could be pruned by neighbors and "Friends of Tilton Park" and asked if that would be permissible. McCrea noted that liability is an issue with that scenario since who would be liable if someone was hurt in pruning.

M. McCafferty noted that lights in the periphery of lower Cool Spring Park functioned but not those in the interior and must be fixed.

R. Tietze suggested that the picnic table in Tilton Park should be removed since that is a center for drug activity. McCrea suggested that the picnic table and some broken benches should be removed and that the bushes around the building should come out.

R. Tietze noted that Sophia Hanson has approved a grant through the 5th District Planning Council of \$150,000.00 and the focus will be on upgrading Tilton Park.

Amy O'Neill, Assistant Principal of Lewis Elementary School said that the school wants to be involved in any further renovations in Cool Spring Park, in particular to ensure proper drainage. McCrea responded that the Department of Parks and Recreation will definitely work with Lewis Elementary School in the renovation.

Several attendees noted that there was interest in establishing a dog park in Cool Spring Park.

Patrice Sheehan, Tree Program Manager, Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH), noted that DCH has tree-pruning clubs to learn about pruning and they can help teach the community about pruning. Up-limbing the trees may serve to increase visibility in Tilton Park.

R. Tietze asked if the City of Wilmington and DCH interact. P. Sheehan responded that the City has no money for city beautification but this could be done with pruning.

Councilman Sammy Prado asked if lights could be replaced before they burn out. McCrea responded that Department of Parks and Recreation did that in the past but the Department has lost five of eight employees so such work is not possible now. He

recommended that the best option would be for residents to email McCrea about lighting issues (cmccrea@wilmingtonde.gov).

Also, residents should contact Delmarva Power to replace bulbs in lights owned by Delmarva Power. Councilman Prado also asked if all the lights could be relabeled to easily identify the lights and McCrea replied that the City of Wilmington would consider that.

7. Friends of Tilton Park

Kristina Pansa reported on the activities of the energized Friends of Tilton Park and asked attendees to sign a petition recommending:

City of Wilmington aid Friends of Tilton Park in trimming Crepe Myrtles and removing the Oak Leaf Hydrangeas. Both are overgrown and serve as hiding places for drug dealers.

The Friends of Tilton Park work with the City of Wilmington and Delaware Center for Horticulture on determining the best option for bushes at the four entry points with regard to trimming or replacing the bushes.

See attached for full recommendations.

8. Public Safety

City of Wilmington Public Safety representatives did not attend the meeting.

9. Update on CS/TNA Events

R. Lafferty updated attendees on recent CS/TNA events:

Next Porch Party is September 11 at the O'Brynes' home at 1107 North Franklin Street at 5:30 p.m.

C. Zahradnik updated attendees on the West Side Revitalization Plan. Woodlawn Trustees has gained approval for a ten-year replacement project with 430 units currently to be replaced by 450 units ultimately with no displacement of tenants for \$10 million.

G. Luna raised the question as to how this could have been approved since the West Side Comprehensive Plan requires decreased density on the West Side. C. Zahradnik replied that the issue is not how many people there are but what kinds of people live in an area.

A Greenery Project will recommend where and what kind of trees to plant.

Delaware Sports League (Bobby Downing) did not follow up on CS/TNA recommendations to make improvements in Tilton and Cool Spring Parks as promised, although he is allowed to obtain a permit to use the Cool Spring Park for his sports league. DSL was a no-show at the meeting. R. Lafferty will follow up on this.

10. Hilltop Lutheran

R. Tietze reported that Hilltop Lutheran has purchased two houses near its current building for demolition and will build a parking lot on the site. This raises the issue of Demolition by Neglect. On September 18, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., the DRPC will decide if this will be allowed. Please attend this meeting.

Judy Fardoulis noted that Hilltop Lutheran did not neglect the buildings and that Jeb Street is working with DCH and the City of Wilmington to build a "Green Parking Lot". She explained that she hated to see the big beautiful house on the corner demolished but it did decay, was vacant for a long time, and was neglected. She hates to see a parking lot built but Hilltop Lutheran is a responsible organization.

In a discussion of Demolition by Neglect, Dennis Gallagher asked if the City of Wilmington is powerless against demolition by neglect but noted that it is difficult to get money out of poor people. A meeting to discuss Demolition by Neglect will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 10 at 615 North Franklin St. at Tory Richard's house. Please plan to attend.

11. Dennis Keeler Memorial Fund

R. Tietze reported that contributions to the Dennis Keeler Memorial Fund amounted to \$1200.00. Dennis was especially passionate about children and literacy and through conversations with his widow, Linda Keeler, CS/TNA decided to create a library at William C. Lewis Dual Language Elementary School. R. Tietze presented a check for \$1200 to Ariadna Castaneda, Principal of Lewis Elementary School, and Amy O'Neill, Assistant Principal of Lewis Elementary School, for the Dennis Keeler Memorial Library. A. O'Neill described that the fund will be used to purchase books in English and Spanish to form a special collection for the first grade.

Heather Hook had also collected books for the school through out the summer and donated six boxes of collected and personal books for the school to use.

A. Castaneda noted that greatly appreciated the help that the Cool Spring/Tilton Park residents have given to Lewis Elementary School in opening their homes to teachers needing temporary housing and explained that the school is always in need of volunteers as well as guest readers if individuals have no time to be a mentor. A. O'Neill noted that the school has gotten approval for an Americorps member to work with the community and Lewis Elementary School. Please contact Amy O'Neill at amy.o'neill@redclay.k12.de.us or 302-651-2695.

12. Upcoming Events and New Business

R. Lafferty noted the following CS/TNA upcoming events:

Fall crock-pot cook-off will be graciously hosted by Denise Ciotti (1301 West 8th Street).

Halloween Parade around Tilton and Cool Spring Parks. R. Pfeiffer kindly volunteered to be the Grand Marshall of the Halloween Parade.

Bingo is planned to thank Regency Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center for their hospitality. See R. Lafferty to volunteer.

L. Philon announced that there is a Plant Exchange on September 21. A basket of produce will be raffled off to benefit Wilmington in Transition. C. Zahradnik noted that the Wilmington Flower Market also has a plant exchange booth.

Thomas Mulford wants to organize a Neighborhood Walk on the periphery of Tilton Park to have a greater presence in the park and discourage drug activity. R. Lafferty and T. Mulford are now the contacts for improving Tilton Park.

Joan Fultz announced the free first time Home Buyers Workshop, September 19 at 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Please contact J. Fultz at 302-658-4171 extension 172 or Yolanda McCoy at extension 118.

13. Elected Officials

Councilman Bud Freel announced the Hazardous Waste Collection will be held again this year on Saturday, October 5 at 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at Frawley Stadium Parking Lot. Contact Councilman Freel (302-984-24230) for information.

14. Meeting Adjournment

R. Lafferty requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. C. Zahradnik made a motion to adjourn the September, 2013 CS/TNA meeting and Thomas Wellman seconded the motion.

Motion passed by majority of attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attachment: Friends of Tilton Park
Minutes submitted by Connie Smith

Attendees

Jim Dolan

Denise Ciotti

John Fardoulis

Judy Fardoulis

Dennis Gallagher

Regina Lafferty

Greg Luna

Thomas Mulford

Thomas Natoli

Kristina Pansa

Rob Pfeiffer

Laura Philon

Bethany Roberts

Connie Smith

Stephanie Smith

Rob Tietze

Carol Townsend

Thomas Wellman

Clara Zahradnik

Liza Marchena Zumsteg

City of Wilmington, Department of Parks and Recreation

Claude McCrea, Jr.

Delaware Center for Horticulture

Patrice Sheehan

Elected Officials

Councilman Bud Freel

Councilmember Sammy Prado

West Side Grows/Cornerstone West

Joan Fultz

Mike McCafferty

William C. Lewis Dual Language Elementary School

Ariadna Castaneda

Amy O'Neill