

West End Association
October 11, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mark Lively, Pres.

Eric Elliott, Treas.

Lisa Elam

David Elam

Richard J. Atwood

Margaret Hermann

Stan Hill

Sarah Williamson

Kathy Stanley

Kathleen Ramich

Meeting opened at 7:00pm. As only four board members were present the approval of September minutes was postponed.

President's Report. Mark noted that two issues were pressing on the neighborhood for input and involvement – discussion of the future plans for Brunson school and the decision whether or not to close the Fourth Street bridge over Business 40. He thought that Brunson might make a good issue for discussion before the group as part of a formal announced program. He was to investigate if someone from the system – Dr. Martin or a representative – might speak at our group. He also noted that there were currently opportunities for input through the meetings of the Creative Corridors Coalition and NCDOT meetings. Margaret Hermann noted that the traffic issues already involved with cut-throughs and speeding thru the neighborhood were not just along Fourth Street. Piedmont Avenue might get as much or more traffic using that route. A discussion of alternative uses of the bridge as a pedestrian only feature was mentioned, and several neighbors had had discussion with city officials about traffic calming but they were largely ineffective. Lisa Elam also noted her frustrations with the effectiveness of public meetings being held by NCDOT in that they had been largely presentations rather than listening sessions. It was suggested that we try to invite NCDOT to come to our group and hear our concerns directly in a future program.

ARTSfest. Co-Chairs Sarah Williamson and Kathy Stanley were thanked for their fine work on ARTSfest 2011. The well attended event featured the unveiling of a new public art piece funded by previous ARTSfests and a base paid for by the WEA. Mayor Jones attended for the unveiling of that piece, which has WEA's name engraved with ARTSfest at its base. Proceeds and bills were still being reconciled at the time of the meeting but with most all things in it looked like the event would net about \$1000 even after the WEA was repaid its starter grant of \$1500 from the spring.

Treasurer Report. As of October 11 there was \$12,478.57 in our main checking account and \$15,028.59 in our reserve fund.

Newsletter. Neil Marion and Kristi Marion have agreed to take over the newsletter editor duties. Assignment of who provides content is important; content is due on the 20th each month. Some complained that the newsletter is late being distributed. Possible use of the postal service to help was noted, though it has higher costs. David Elam noted that there are maps of complete routes for each distribution route and it was important that people knew the whole route they had assigned. It was agreed that further examination of distribution issues should be done,

A general discussion of the need to increase membership and the use of email to communicate with members and solicit renewals followed.

A review of upcoming meeting topics closed the session. It was hoped to have LeAnn Pegram talk about the Historic Resources Commission in December, have Dr. Martin speak in January, and perhaps have a public session on the Fourth Street bridge in February. The meeting closed at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Elliott
Acting Secretary