

**Minutes**  
**OCA Board Meeting**  
**August 3, 2009**  
**Home of Robin Anne Nelson, 30 University Circle**

**Present:** Robert Reynolds (Pres.), LaDonnah Roberts (VP), Bryan Chandler (Pinehurst), Jimmy Cochrane (Audubon), Jeannie Guthrie (Social Chairman), Edward Guy (Pinehurst), Kelly Horwitz (College Park), Robin Anne Nelson (University Circle), Councilman Lee Garrison, James Fowler and Steven Oliver (SGA)

Minutes of the June meeting were approved. (No meeting was held in July.)

**Correspondence**

Robert read a note to the group from Mayor Maddox complimenting the OCA on its work and thanking them for their support. Robert reminded the group that although the Mayor's race and the Council District 4 race are not contested other Council members are facing opposition. The Board proposed and approved donations of \$250 each to Councilman Lundell's and Councilman Tinker's campaigns.

**Old Business**

Historic Preservation Commission Report

(No HPC members were in attendance and no issues were presented.)

Standing Committees:

Social Committee

Robert and Jeannie discussed plans for the Fall Picnic and the upcoming Annual Meeting. Proposed locations were Monnish Park and Alabama Power, respectively. Jeannie will check dates and availability.

Long Range Planning Committee

LaDonnah reported additional progress on the Quiet Zone project in the form of communications with Alabama Southern RR. Their representative shared with her that ALDOT had actually contacted them about obtaining grant money to upgrade the crossing at DCH Hospital (Dr. Edward Hillard Drive) to install gates and lights on the second set of tracks.

Neighborhood Partnership Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for September 24 at the Hotel Capstone.

City Council

Councilman Garrison reported that annual budget hearings were still ongoing. The City is attempting to address an anticipated \$4M shortfall. No layoffs have occurred but a hiring freeze has been instituted. City departments are in good shape where equipment needs are concerned. Right-of-way and maintenance crews are continuing improvements to streetscape, etc. Meetings between the City

and UA are planned to analyze the City's staffing and areas maintained versus the same elements at UA. It is anticipated that UA "out staffs" the City for the area maintained. The Mayor and Council are attempting to give as much to local agencies as possible so as not to "shock" their budgets. However, the overall budget cuts are trickling down to them as well. Historic signage will be installed soon and completion is anticipated by the end of the year. University Circle and Alaca Place are working with the City to analyze feasibility of underground utilities. March is targeted as the completion date for University Boulevard work. Senator Shelby is continuing to work for our downtown and has managed to garner appropriations for an additional \$7M.

#### School Board

Bryan Chandler reported that 2% proration was declared for the last three months of this fiscal year. City Schools have approximately one month of reserves. Bryan also shared the AYP results (see attached handout) and was encouraged by the positive movement seen in the elementary schools. Councilman Garrison asked if the pre-K program was a factor in helping to bring about that improvement and Bryan replied that the principals are seeing the impact.

#### Student Government Association

James Fowler and Steven Oliver were in attendance. They invited OCA to participate in the upcoming "Pork & Politics" function. This event will be a meet and greet opportunity for citizens to ask any last-minute questions of candidates. The location will be The Zone at Bryant-Denny Stadium and BBQ finger food will be served. The OCA Board authorized a contribution of \$350 toward the event. Both gentlemen reported that the SGA members had been busy over the summer but few "large group" SGA meetings had been held.

#### Zoning Board of Adjustments

John Sheffield was not able to attend.

#### Planning Commission

Robert reported that the Commission activity is still slow. It is anticipated that this time can be used to resurrect issues such as sidewalks, size of signage, etc. He also reminded members that with a new fiscal cycle new appointments were available. Those who wish to express an interest in an appointment should do so to Councilman Garrison.

### **New Business**

#### Upcoming Meetings

Since our regularly scheduled meeting would fall on Labor Day the meeting date has been moved to September 14. October's meeting will be our Annual Meeting.

#### Office Elections

Since officer elections will be held at the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee will need to meet. It was determined that the Executive Committee would contact last year's Nominating Committee Chairmen Jon McLelland on that matter.

**Finance Report**

John Sheffield was unable to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

**A meeting place was not officially set for September 14. However, Bryan Chandler offered the new Jamison Money Farmer office space.**