GPSMNA Board Meeting

April 6, 2022, via Zoom

Board members in attendance: President L.Arevian, Vice President D. Nave, Treasurer C. Cline, Secretary L.A. Schwietz, immediate past president S. Escovitz, CAN representative A. Escovitz, and Carole Lentz. Meeting called to order 7:06 pm by President L. Arevian.

I. Welcome by President Arevian

a. This is the first meeting in 2022 with the new board.

b. January GPSMNA meeting minutes were reviewed.

**Motion to approve January 2022 minutes made by A. Escovitz, seconded L.A. Schwietz. Approved.**

II. Treasurer’s Report

a. Treasurer C. Cline detailed changes to accounting, including the new use of Quickbooks software. Treasurer Cline is

consolidating funds from First Bank to First Citizens Bank. Signatories on the account are S. Escovitz, L. Arevian and C. Cline.

b. The tax filing for our tax-exempt, non-profit organization will be completed by Peridot Consulting.

c. Treasurer Cline will keep track of donations and memberships. As of now, letters are being sent out for donations of $100+.

Treasurer Cline hopes to add software that will include “auto-pilot” membership and donation documentation on the website.

**Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report made by A. Escovitz, seconded by L. Arevian. Approved.**

III**.** CAN Meeting Updates

a. A. Escovitz reviewed highlights of the March 22, 2022 CAN meeting. The first issue is a proposal by the city to restructure

advisory boards, specifically to reduce the number of (about) 20 different boards to a total of 4. A. Escovitz, and other CAN

members, oppose this, as it will reduce knowledge about various issues, and reduce transparency of city activities. The effect

would be for citizens to be less participatory. As they function now, the number of boards allow citizens to influence plans,

rather than decisions being made from the top down. Despite opposition, city council expects to roll out a pilot program of

fewer boards in the next year. This change is being driven by city council member Gwen Wisler.

b. CAN addressed the proposed Open Space Amendment, which the city will vote on in July. This amendment accelerates infill in

neighborhoods, allowing developers to reduce open public space. This amendment will affect every neighborhood in the city.

c. CAN has set up a candidate online forum in time for early voting, scheduled for April 28 – May 14. Candidates are on video,

answering identical questions. The website for CAN activities is http:// www.asheville-can.org.

IV. Merrimon Rd Update

a. The Merrimon Rd “road diet” will be on the next CAN agenda.

b. There was discussion about the changes made to Charlotte St following a limited traffic study done in the middle of the COVID

pandemic. The organization that performed the study also got the contract for planning the road changes. Neighbors agree

Charlotte is much more congested now, with traffic often backed up to Edwin Rd.

c. Discussion regarding hundreds of questionnaires in favor of changes to Merrimon Rd emphasized the lack of information about

who filled out questionnaires, many of which favor the road diet. Was it local residents? Or non-local bicyclists who favor a new

bike lane? Ultimately, the North Carolina Dept of Transportation will decide, since Merrimon is a state road.

V. Parks and Islands Updates

a. S. Escovitz reviewed tasks for Sprinkle Creek Landscaping, including 1) Leave irrigation off in the Rose Garden for now, and

start to design a new planting bed. 2)Traffic islands have been cleaned up; E.W. Grove Park spring clean-up is underway.

3) A Sunset Park steering committee will work on a plan for Sunset Park. Al Kopf (city landscape architect), will be

included. 4) A plan to unite upper and lower Grove Park, in order to use a $5000 matching grant from the city, is still needed.

**S. Escovitz made a motion to approve $200 for Hollytone fertilizer for public space shrubs. Seconded by L. Arevian. Approved.**

VI. Tour of Homes Update, Sunday, September 11, 2022

a. The parking lot at the Grove Park Inn golf course has been approved for parking.

b. This will be the first home tour in more than 2 years. Homes that will be on the tour are not yet final.

**S. Escovitz made a motion to approve a $900 deposit to reserve trolleys for the home tour. Seconded by L. Arevian. Approved**.

VII. President Arevian Goals

a. President Arevian would like a more visible internet presence, with the goal to inspire greater neighborhood involvement.

b.There was discussion about a neighborhood conservation overlay district (NCOD). This is a zoning tool used to preserve

significant older areas in a community, beyond what is specified in the standard code. Conservation overlay regulations are

applied to standard zoning and will usually take precedence. A. Escovitz mentioned an NCOD plan was done for GPSMNA in

2015. C. Cline suggested we update our NCOD plan; guidelines already in place in Raleigh could be a starting point.

**Motion to adjourn made by L.A. Schwietz, 8:15. Seconded by L. Arevian. Next meeting May 4, 2022. 7pm.**

Minutes submitted by Leigh Anne Schwietz