

Minutes  
Cottontown Board of Directors  
Tuesday, September 23, 2008  
6:30 p.m.

Members Present Paul Bouknight, Ellen Cooper, Mary Broadwater, Josh McDuffie, Tom Walters, Amy Herin, Rusty Sox, Doug Aylard, Carol Finethy

Members Absent Patrick Thiele

Guests Robin Waites, Dennis Butt, Bruce Cotner

Call to Order President Paul Bouknight called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Historic Columbia Foundation Robin Waites, executive director of the Historic Columbia Foundation, announced that it has received a grant to document in-town historic neighborhoods and wishes to include Cottontown. The project will include oral history, collecting images, creating a small exhibit and a walking tour of the neighborhood. Other neighborhoods in the project will include Lower Waverly, Arsenal Hill, Hollywood Rose Hill and Shandon. Cottontown's piece of the project would be rolled out on spring of 2010. Ms. Waites asked for the neighborhood's assistance in identifying sources of information, contacting people, and coordinating volunteers.

Zoning Issue Dennis Butt addressed the board regarding zoning at 1305 Geiger, in which the owners have received a certificate of non-compliance allowing them to begin renting out a garage apartment that was previously unoccupied for more than a year. Mr. Butt is attempting to appeal the zoning change. He requested a support letter from the neighborhood and attendance at the October 14 BOZA meeting.

Motion Mr. McDuffie moved to provide a letter supporting the Butts' right to appeal and receive due process. Mr. Aylard seconded and the motion was approved. Mr. McDuffie will draft the letter.

Quality of Life Issue Bruce Cotner addressed the board about ongoing complaints with residents at 1309 Confederate Avenue, including a series of documented incidents in which the police have been called. Mr. Cotner requested a letter from the board to the proper city authority requesting corrective action, and that a copy of the letter be sent to the landlord.

Motion Mr. Aylard moved that the board draft a letter asking the city to continue and expedite an investigation into the complaints at 1309

Confederate under the nuisance landlord ordinance, citing the number of incidents involving city police. Ms. Herin seconded and the motion was approved.

Minutes Ms. Cooper noted a correction to the minutes on page 2, should read "...does not constitute an endorsement."

It was also noted that since the last board meeting, the date for the fall neighborhood membership meeting was changed from October 19 to October 26, 2008.

Motion Mr. McDuffie moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Ms. Broadwater seconded and the motion was approved.

North Main Streetscaping Work on North Main Street continues. There was no new information to report.

Historic Preservation Mr. Sox presented the city's most current revised draft of the guidelines for the proposed Architectural Conservation District for Cottontown and the revised boundary map.

There was discussion and additional revisions suggested.

The board requested information on the appeal process for decisions by the DDRC. Mr. Sox agreed to get those for the next meeting.

Motion Mr. McDuffie moved to present the draft and boundaries, as revised, at the public meeting called for that purpose on October 26. Mr. Aylard seconded and the motion was approved.

The board requested that all notifications of the public meeting include a board contact for requesting a printed copy of the guidelines.

Coalition of Down-Town Neighborhoods Ms. Cooper reported that the city now recognizes the group of downtown neighborhood leaders.

Salvation Army Site There was discussion of the most recent information about the Midlands Housing Alliance's plans for building a new homeless facility at the Salvation Army site.

Motion Mr. McDuffie moved that the neighborhood association contact businesses supportive of the MHA to express its opposition to the Salvation Army site. There was no second to the motion.

Motion Mr. McDuffie moved that the neighborhood association support the city's proposed alternate site. Ms. Herin seconded and the motion was approved.

Motion Mr. McDuffie moved that the neighborhood association oppose any attempt to locate a homeless shelter at the corner of Main Street and Elmwood Avenue. Ms. Cooper seconded the motion.

Discussion There was discussion of the motion.

Motion Ms. Cooper moved to table the motion. Mr. Walters seconded and the motion to table was approved.

Cookbook Project Ms. Cooper has moved forward with the cookbook project. She requested that a call for recipes from the neighborhood be placed in the next newsletter.

Holiday Tour of Homes Reformation Lutheran Church has asked Cottontown to participate with them in a tour of homes. There was consensus to decline, but express interest in the possibility of doing it next year.

Nominating Committee Ms. Cooper, chair of the nominating committee, advised the board that it would be nominating the current slate of board members and officers for re-election at the fall neighborhood meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

Expenditure Approval Mr. Bouknight informed the board that the neighborhood association had received a \$150 grant from the city to support National Night Out. He requested that the board authorize a check in that amount payable to the Earlewood neighborhood association, which coordinated a combined event with Cottontown this year.

Motion Mr. McDuffie moved to approve a check for \$150 to Earlewood for National Night Out. Mr. Walters seconded and the motion was approved.

Adjourn There was no other business. Mr. Aylard moved to adjourn. Ms. Herin seconded and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting Tuesday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m.**