

Forest Hills Neighborhood Association

January 21, 2016

Meeting Notes

Attendees: 8 Residents

Staff Present: Ross Zelenske, Neighborhood Liaison/City Planner; Acting Battalion Chief Eric Sprinkle (HFD); four members of Engine 3 (HFD); Sergeant Richard Helderman (HPD A-PACT), as well as, a Master Police Officer and Police Officer (HPD A-PACT)

Meeting Notes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Gwen Belk.

Gwen Belk introduced herself as the neighborhood group leader. Gwen thanked everyone for coming out before the impending snow storm.

Sergeant Helderman from the Hickory Police Department introduced himself as one of the new Sergeants of Adam PACT. He stated that the department occasionally reassigns officers to different PACTs to improve their knowledge of the area. Additionally, there is a growing amount of youth within the department and having two sergeants in Adam PACT would improve supervising capability. He advised that Lt. Hildebrand and Sgt. Robinson are still within Adam PACT. Sgt. Helderman gave the following report:

- Every year PACT supervisors reevaluate the PACT and layout a plan and goals to improve public safety to the citizens and business owners they are protecting. For 2016, Adam PACT has three specific goals:
 - Reduce property break ins and entering (B&E) by 3%
 - Reduce vehicle B&Es by 3%
 - Reduce stolen vehicles by 4%
- Sgt. Helderman advised citizens of crime prevention tips related to these goals, such as removing items from vehicles that you don't want stolen, removing keys from vehicles whenever they are unoccupied, and chaining down mopeds, which can be stolen by picking them up and putting them into the bed of a pickup truck.
- Mrs. Belk then inquired about a report on the call volume for the past month in Forest Hills.
 - Sgt. Helderman advised that there were no significant calls of interest/concern for the month. Specifically, there were a couple of wrecks, a package stolen off of someone's porch, and a stolen ladder at Creekside Apartments.

- A question was then posed by another citizen regarding a dog bite that went unreported. She stated that a dog attacked another person's dog and when the owner went to intervene she too was bitten. At the time she didn't report the incident, but later on wished she would have as she was unsure if the dog had been vaccinated.
 - Sgt. Helderman advised that citizens should report dog bites and that an Animal Control officer will respond if the call is during regular business hours, otherwise a police officer will respond and take a report for later follow up.

Captain Sprinkle from the Hickory Fire Department who was filling in for a vacated Battalion Chief position introduced himself and the crew of Engine 3. He then provided the following:

- A report for the past month found that the neighborhood had no major incidents, but the department did run the following few calls:
 - A fire alarm, a service call, a gas leak, and a few medical emergencies.
- No questions were posed by the citizens.

Planner Ross Zelenske provided the following information:

- Ross gave the highlights on the January edition of the City Snippets newsletter, which included info on the upcoming citizen's firefighting academy. For more information or to sign up, you can contact Terri Byers, Fire Education Coordinator, at (828) 323-7521.
- This month the Bond Commission and City Council made the official recommendations and decisions on which bond projects would be funded. These meetings were covered by the Hickory Daily Record and made available on the city's website. The following projects were approved by City Council for funding and three additional options were added, if additional funds become available.
 - Riverwalk Option 2 (Option 1 upgrade if funding becomes available)
 - Both of the Old Lenoir Road streetscapes
 - Both streetscapes connecting City Walk to Old Lenoir Road (combined this functions as a connection from City Walk to Riverwalk)
 - The Lenoir Rhyne Blvd streetscape
 - Gateway piece along Hwy 321 near intersection with Hwy 70
 - Gateway piece along Hwy 321 near intersection with Clement Blvd
 - Gateway piece along Interstate 40 at interchange with LR Blvd
 - All sections of the City Walk. The pedestrian bridge across Hwy 127, improvements to Union Square, improvements along Main Avenue between 1st and 3rd, and the 2nd Avenue/Main Avenue realignment into a roundabout.

- The Viewmont/Hwy 127 streetscape is first on the waiting list and the Depot Station improvements (parking garage construction, landscaping improvements, and related) are second on the list.
- Ross passed around documents showing the project's descriptions and provided input on the next phase of the bond projects. The City Manager's office and Bond Commission will begin work on developing RFQs and RFPs for the funded projects and continue managing their respective projects. Consultant FNI is working on drafting up a time table for all of the projects that will elapse the next 4-5 years. Ross will bring this time table for everyone to see, once it is finished and publicly released. City management will determine the next steps on retaining FNI as the bond management consultant or selecting another consultant for the job. Ross was informed that the Riverwalk and all of the gateway pieces are targeted to be the first projects to go up. Lastly, the City will continue applying for additional funding opportunities to add more items to the bond project list.
- Next, Ross covered some other projects that will occur in 2016 that will coincide with the bond projects.
 - The Friends of Hickory Park is moving forward. Updated 3-D drawings of the park were passed around. This was also in the HDR.
 - In response to a question from a citizen, Ross confirmed that the location of the park will be located on a parking lot adjacent to the western end of Union Square near the old Bank of Granite, now CommunityOne Bank.
 - In response to another question by a citizen, Ross advised that this project was not funded by the city nor was it an official bond project, but the city will assist with water line infrastructure.
 - The Kiwanis Club splash pad is moving forward. No significant update.
 - The Lackey Park project is slowly moving forward. No significant update.
 - A citizen inquired about the possibility of having a splash pad on the northern end of town, possibly in the renovated Lackey Park. Ross advised that he was not aware of any plans to construct a second splash pad in the near future and that these splash pads cost a significant amount of money to construct, which would inhibit the likelihood of this happening without dedicated funding and planning. He stated he would inquire with the Parks Department to confirm.
- The McDonalds on Hwy 321 and 2nd Avenue NW will be demolished and rebuilt as a larger and more modern facility with better traffic flow and more parking. Plans have been submitted and are working toward administrative approval.

- Follow up on the Hwy 321 widening project was confirmed by the Hickory Traffic Division staff. The project will occur and the bridges across Lake Hickory will be replaced over the next few years.

Mrs. Belk then opened the floor for open discussion.

- Gwen mentioned that Ross drafted up some flyers for the neighborhood to announce the meeting. An image is attached to the notes showing the flyer. Gwen and Ross will attempt to create more flyers and pass them around the neighborhood to increase attendance.
- A question was posed by a citizen as to where the boundary lines were for the Forest Hills neighborhood.
 - Mrs. Caroline Martin provided a rough description and Ross pulled up a map found on the city's website for her to review.
- Another question was posed as to where the boundary was for Adam PACT
 - Sgt. Helderman provided a rough description. Roughly speaking the PACT is bordered by Lake Hickory to the north, N Center St to the east, the railroad tracks to the south, and Hwy 321 to the west. This includes the neighborhoods of Forest Hills, Lakeland Park, Oakwood, Hillcrest, and portions of Downtown and Viewmont.

With no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Next Meeting:

February 18, 2016 at 7:00 PM at Geitner-Rotary Park.

Notes recorded by Ross Zelenske.



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Forest Hills Neighborhood Association

Come find out what is going on in your neighborhood and city!

Meet and hear reports from the firefighters, police officers, and city staff working in your neighborhood. This is a great opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the bond projects, crime prevention, fire safety, and upcoming city events.

JANUARY MEETING

Thursday the 21st

7:00 pm to 7:45 pm

Activity Building at Geitner Park

2035 12th Street Drive NW

For more information contact Ross Zelenske at (828) 323-7496 or rzelenske@hickorync.gov.

You can read more about the neighborhood's past meetings online at www.hickorync.gov and searching Forest Hills Neighborhood Association.