

# Forest Hills Neighborhood Association

## September 15, 2016

### Meeting Notes

**Attendees:** 6 Residents

**Staff Present:** Ross Zelenske, Neighborhood Liaison/City Planner; three members of Ladder 3 (HFD) and Battalion Chief Cozart

**Meeting Notes:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Gwen Belk.

Gwen Belk introduced herself as the neighborhood group leader and welcomed two new faces to the meeting. She explained the purpose of the meeting and items on the agenda. With no police representative having arrived, Gwen asked the Fire Department for their report.

Captain Cates provided the following report from the Hickory Fire Department:

- He noted that this report was from July 1 to present day. There have been a total of 29 calls for service in the neighborhood. Most of them, 14, have been EMS related. There did appear to be two fires. One of which was a cooking related fire in an apartment complex.
  - Gwen mentioned that at the last meeting the neighborhood learned more about the types of responses and the amount of units that would be coming based on the call type and structure.
    - Captain Cates and Chief Cozart elaborated on this subject. Specifically, in order to obtain a lower ISO rating (which can lower your home insurance premiums), as well as, comply with standard firefighting practices there needs to be multiple crews on the way. Crews cannot make entry on house fires without at least four firefighters. Mutual aid agreements are in place with neighboring departments, such as Longview and St. Stephens to cover Hickory if there is a large incident. In total, the department is responding to around 7,000 calls annually.
  - Gwen also noted that she and her husband attended the 9/11 ceremony on Union Square and that everyone involved did an excellent job.

Ross Zelenske was then asked to present his reports from the City. Ross noted that the Police Department was invited to the meeting as usual, but may have been tied up on emergency calls.

- Ross did note that the Oakwood and Hillcrest neighborhoods in NW Hickory were visited by door to door salesmen, some of which was suspicious in nature. Ross stated these salesmen need to obtain a solicitor's permit from the Hickory Police Department. The cost of the permit is only \$15 and ensures the people doing this are legitimate and not a scam. Ross stated he was not entirely sure, but he assumed this involved a background check on the person and the business.

Ross stated that if someone knocks on your door, you should ask to see their solicitor's license. If they do not have such, you should probably avoid doing business with them.

Ross then provided the City of Hickory report.

- Ross handed out the most recent edition of the City Snippets newsletter, which included information on upcoming activities and notices, including Oktoberfest which is just around the corner.
  - Ross was asked to provide additional copies for future meetings.
  - Chief Cozart provided more information regarding the Hickory Fire Department's upcoming fundraiser.
- Bridge work near Glenn Hilton Park is ongoing. Ross believed that it would continue for the next month. Please use caution in this area.
- Glenn Hilton Park's overflow parking lot is completed. Some landscaping should have been finished recently.
- Friends of Hickory Downtown Park is aiming for a late October grand opening. Be on the lookout for this.
- There is no major update on the Lackey Park. The City and Lackey team continue to meet over the proposed park upgrades.
- Hickory City Park will be undergoing work in early 2017 to work on the tennis courts. Ross said he would provide more as time moved closer.
- Riverwalk RFQ is closing at the end of the month. Ross stated he has heard from his boss that there seems to be a lot of interest from consultants and the City is expecting multiple qualification statements to be submitted.
- Ross did not have any official updates on the Highway 321 project. He did mention that he had heard there have already been revisions made to the concept plan presented awhile back. There are maps at City Hall at the Planning Department for those interested.
  - A question was posed from a citizen regarding the timeline. Ross stated that NCDOT was looking at ROW purchasing in 2018 and physical construction starting 2020/2021. He stated it would likely be a few years of construction, but would hopefully be worth the inconvenience.
  - A question was also posed regarding impacts on Old Lenoir Road and construction related to it. Ross stated that Old Lenoir Road would be significantly impacted by the construction, but the only roadwork would be at the connections to 321. There is a funded streetscape project to carryout roadwork on Old Lenoir Road related to the bond referendum. That was still in the planning phases, but would be occurring around the same timeline.
- On the note of 321, Ross mentioned that City Council heard a rezoning request from the owners of the old George's 321 to have docks added. Ross stated that the owners were looking to rezone part of the property from commercial to residential and that the property would be housing a new restaurant. This rezoning would create two new residential build lots. The purpose of this request was not to build homes, but rather obtain residential docks that would improve business for the restaurant. Duke Energy regulations do not allow two

commercial marinas to be so close. In this case, the new restaurant would be deemed a marina by Duke and therefore the only way to get docks is via the rezoning. Ross stated there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading for the rezoning at the next Council meeting.

With no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

**Next Meeting:**

2016 at 7:00 PM at Geitner-Rotary Park. Notes recorded by Ross Zelenske.

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The following report was provided after the meeting from the Adam PACT Commander:

*It seems from emails and phone calls we have received, the NW area has had illegal solicitors/door to door sales people in the area. Solicitors must have a solicitor's permit issued by the city to conduct business legally. If they do not, please kindly refuse their business and immediately call our dispatch at 828.328.5551. If you can do so safely, attempt to get a description of the person (clothing, etc.) along with direction of travel and whether they are on foot or in vehicle. A vehicle tag/plate number would be great, but only if you can obtain it safely.*

*We have received some calls within the past week but have not been able to locate these individuals. I believe these individuals are conducting business illegally, so please continue to call us if they approach your home. Also, use extreme caution when dealing with any door to door sales persons (legit or not) and never let them in your home if you are by yourself.*

*\*Solicitors permits/badges are orange with the word "Solicitor" on top. Furthermore, it will have their picture along with the company they are representing.*

*Thank you and take care,*

*Lt. Brad Edwards*

*Hickory PD*