

June 2017 West End Association Meeting Minutes:

06.27.2017 at the West End Room of the YMCA / Started 6PM

Attendees – No Sign In sheet was passed around as folks were asked to sign in at a desk staffed for Jeff McIntosh.

- Mark Lively
- Frank Johnson
- JoAnn Mount
- Jeff McIntosh
- Kristina McElhinney
- Dan Anthony
- Richard Atwood
- Greg Kucera
- Ralph Kennedy
- Claudia von Grunebaum
- Dan Bradley
- George Bryan
- Clint Buss
- John Merschel
- Keith Stone

Spring Park: Meeting started on time and began with presentation / Q&A with Keith Huff (Winston-Salem director of storm water / erosion control) and several other folks working on the plan to “fix” the stream cutting its way through Spring Park. There still is not an official agreement with the (private property) apartment owners and timelines are dependent on when an agreement can be reached. An overview presentation was given explaining elements to (a) replace and extend the drain pipe coming down from 6th street 150’ beyond its current length, (b) rebuild, revegetate and step down the current stream bed to control flow and (c) mill down the asphalt to original street level on West End Boulevard (hereafter WEB) and resurface, leaving granite curbs on residential side but replacing on park side with poured concrete and gutters. Numerous questions and clarifications were voiced:

- Keith stone suggested the “crown” in the middle of WEB be minimized so cars entering driveways would not peak/trough on entry and avoid damaging roadway.
- A discussion about the number of trees present and resident perception that the city has failed to follow the historic overly district guidelines in the past. The presenters assured that the project would go through HRC.
- A “planting plan” is also included and it was suggested the species be checked against the planning boards list of approved, native varieties, though it was uncertain if erosion-control / stream-bed specific categories are on that list. A later question about whether public input could be solicited about tree species led the presenters to state they would share the current plan details with the board digitally for review and comment.
- Chris Bass, Stream Restoration Expert provided more details concerning:
 - New pipe length and exit point
 - Overflow control by broadening the floodplain
 - Tree removal due to collateral damage from heavy equipment use (and grade changes), yet 150 new trees are currently present in the plan.
 - Materials moved during work will be reused as much as possible. Root-wads and geo-lifts were referenced as examples

- Complaint about city exacerbating erosion problems by spraying herbicide along stream bed. Presenters agreed this should not happen and stated they would communicate this during project.
- Discussion about the namesake “Spring” or even “Springs” present and if that could complicate future erosion control.
- The presenters clarified that this project was purely focused on the stream bed and erosion control, not the function of the area as a “park” and agreed coordination with the city Parks and Recreation Department during, but especially after the project completes could be beneficial to the park usability. A later question confirmed that the foot path and remnants of bridges would be removed as part of this project and it was suggested that Parks and Recreation Department be consulted for a long term plan.
- When asked, the presenters affirmed they had contacted the city arborist about the project details.
- Time line is uncertain and heavily dependent on when and agreement can be reached with the owners of private property affecting the start area of the project (apartments along 6th street). Current hope is to begin in spring 2018.
- Discussion of parking, traffic routing and residential access was held.
- A question about the uneven street level along WEB at Spring Park led the presenters to state that the grade is not being changed, but that minor inconsistencies would be leveled out as part of the asphalt strip/replace.
- When asked about mud and silt runoff down to Peters Creek, project planners explained that they were (a) using a bypass pump so they could “work dry” as much as possible, and would (b) work a section at a time, and finally (c) would use sediment traps to retain material on site as much as possible.
- When asked about a “plan B” in the event WEB collapses before work can begin it was stated that there currently is no such plan and that their hope is simply to move on this project quickly to reduce that risk.
- There was a short discussion about reusing stone materials uncovered from the historic spring or springs, prior bridges and/or walls built to retain the stream.
- A resident did show the presenters on a map where the Barred Owl nests.

Prior Minutes: already approved per email thread since last meeting

Treasurer’s Report: not included.

Hanes Park: Mark and Dan have looked at several mature trees near the Clover entrance (Hemlock) and Tennis Courts (Magnolia) that they are pushing to keep if at all possible.

Social Committee: Moving ahead with July 4th celebration in line with prior years

HRC items affecting West End overlay:

- Support staff on two signs (after the fact) at the brick row houses at corner of Fourth and Burke
- Support staff on denying a different sign at another of same row houses since it is internally illuminated and not historically appropriate by the guidelines
- John said he would try to attend the next HRC meeting as a prior issue has circled back again – the owner of the house at the bottom of First Street where

the windows were removed without permission is seeking permission to have the side windows replaced. It was agreed, that regardless of prior issues, any requests should be evaluated purely on their merits as matched against the guidelines.

Next Meeting: It was agreed there would not be a July 2017 meeting and that a Community Safety meeting with the local police could be postponed until later in the summer or fall.