

Fayetteville Council of Neighborhoods
July 20, 2006

- I. Introductions
 - a. Tom Brown, Irene Pritchard, Bob Caulk, Jo Ann Kvamme, Mark Kinion, Nancy Allen, Fran Alexander, Colleen Pancake, Sarah Lewis, Nancy Williams, Linda McMath, Michael Thomas, Tim Kring,
- II. Tim Conklin introduces Julie McQuade – New Neighborhood Coordinator
 - a. Nancy Allen expressed importance of the position as reflecting the City’s commitment to FCON.
- III. Fran Alexander – Local Columnist and Activist
 - a. Fran expressed her impression of where Fayetteville is headed.
 - b. Divinity was a defining issue and Tuesday’s City Council meeting was a turning point.
 - c. She stated that Fayetteville needs to separate and justify a division between physical and fiscal development thinking. We are too divided in our thinking, she said.
 - d. It was stated by one FCON rep that the Divinity Project discussion caused the ordinance for height limits to be passed more quickly that it may otherwise have been.
 - e. Fran stated that compatibility was already on the books and that Divinity did not meet compatibility guidelines.
 - f. Fran stated that citizens do not have a clear idea about the process of decision making within the city government. FCON can act to educate the citizens in learning about the process and how citizens can make change.
 - g. Fran stated that developers do not see the importance of the sentimentality of being able to see Old Main from many places in Fayetteville.
 - h. Fayetteville needs to decide what they value and the focal points and plan accordingly. Old Main, Court House, Village Green square, WAC. The Downtown Master Plan should be a document of what we value.
 - i. Old Main is a symbol of Fayetteville. New pressures and ideals putting pressure on this. She stated that developers sell the view of Old Main, but then take the view from the community.
 - j. One representative stated that there needs to be more green space in the Downtown Master Plan. The Urban Forestry is not being followed.
 - k. Fran stated that citizens stated that compatibility is important to them the council did not follow what the people wanted. This causes the citizens to become apathetic.
 - l. One representative stated that ordinances are supposed to give the citizens rest, but it seems that in this town there is never a chance to rest. There is always someone threatening the vision that the people of Fayetteville have laid out.
 - m. Nancy Allen stated that FCON can act as a source for information to the citizens in order to help people stay aware of events and impending changes.

- n. One FCON rep said that it is difficult to enforce mixed use and diversity and zoning because of economics. If the land is too valuable people will sell out to developers.
- o. Fran stated that it takes constant vigilance if Fayetteville is to be the city that people want.
- p. Nancy Allen stated that education will encourage involvement.
- q. It was suggested that contact information be attached to all announcements about City Council issues.
- r. One problem – people want infill but can't decide on how to infill.
- s. It was brought up that the Planning Commission stated a goal of including affordable and mixed use housing.
- t. Fran's column is every second Monday in the Northwest Arkansas Times.

IV. Developers at FCON?

- a. Bob – Only if the affected neighborhood association invites them.
- b. Mark – Neighborhood representative should bring the information instead of the “dog and pony” show by a developer.
- c. Marie – All neighborhoods affected by certain developments.
- d. Nancy – Case by case decision after the developer has met with the neighborhood association

V. Tom Brown – West Lafayette Neighborhood Association

- a. SWEPCO Powerline Project
- b. Demolition of a 69,000 volt line and replaced with a 161,000 volt line.
- c. They want to run it through the downtown and it will impede the view of Old Main in many places such as Lafayette Street.
- d. It is also near other historic properties such as the Gregg House, the Lafayette Bridge and the Maple Street Bridge.
- e. The lines are large and the poles are immense (very tall and wide).
- f. They are asking the community to voice their concerns to the Public Service Commission so that the PSC will deny SWEPCO the right to change the regulations, thus allowing this project to continue.
- g. The city has suggested alternate routes near I 540, but SWEPCO will not accept them because the downtown route is cheaper.
- h. The city wants a say in where the line goes.
- i. U of A has not responded to the issue.
- j. Notification is not necessary unless it crossed your property.
- k. Next time FCON will discuss its position on the issue.

VI. Neighborhood association updates.

- a. Colleen Pancake – Neighborhood Mill District taken out of Downtown Master Plan
- b. Marie presented a “Traditional Neighborhood” mixed use development that is to go in within the Root School neighborhood. Root school NA has not yet been contacted. More on this later.

VII. Agenda for next time

- a. City Tax proposals – aldermen? Sewage discussion
- b. Aldermen seat coming up

- c. Findley Edwards to present in September?
- d. Jeremy Pate to present in September?
- e. Landscaping amendment has been proposed.