

Duckpond Neighborhood Association
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 16, 2010
First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Gainesville, FL

In the absence of President Randy Wells* and VP Melanie Barr*, Secretary Mary Rhodes called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. [See Agenda.]

- The Crime Watch Report was provided by Detective Matthew Goeckel of the Gainesville Police Department. He reported several thefts from parked autos, with the atypical occurrence of actual breaking of car windows. Residential break-ins also occurred in our “Zone Hotel,” but recent arrests have been made that may account for multiple events.
- Mary Rhodes brought a notebook of DNA minutes with her and offered them to any residents wishing to read about previous Executive Committee discussions and actions, as well as topics at general membership meetings. She also distributed orange DNA membership cards, reminding those present that March is the month each year when the \$15 household renewal dues are requested.

She conveyed a message from Randy Wells as a follow-up to an earlier issue: the possible merger of Rawlings and Metcalf elementary schools appears to have been tabled—at least at present—because of Federal funding in the works.

- Brian Miller, Interim Treasurer, distributed copies of the 2009 Annual Report of financial transactions for the Association. [See copy.] The end of year balance in the treasury was \$7,195.27.

Resident Jane Fowler inquired about the possibility of an expenditure for Roper Park plantings and offered to help if a project is initiated. Mary Rhodes will forward her name to Melanie Barr.

- Guest Maria Parsons from the Stephen Foster Neighborhood Association gave an update on the status of remediation plans for the Cabot-Koppers Superfund site on 23rd Avenue just west of N. Main St. She and her neighborhood group are pressing local, state, and federal officials to take action at the site, pointing out that almost 20 years have elapsed since the original problems were discovered. The outcome of EPA actions may have a profound effect on neighborhood health and safety, as well as on all of Gainesville’s drinking water quality in the future.

- **OFFICER ELECTION.** A slate of DNA officers for the upcoming year was presented for consideration, and other nominations were solicited. No other nominations were made from the floor. Carolynn Patten moved/Bill Warinner seconded acceptance of the slate and they were elected unanimously. Officers for the current year will be **Randy Wells** (Pres.), **Melanie Barr** (VP), **Mary**

Rhodes (Sec'y), and **Brian Miller** (Treas.). Director nominees **Jennifer Cannon**, **Charles Covell**, **Edith Kaan**, and new volunteer **Dave Maren** were also moved/seconded (Bill Warinner/Linda Boyles) and accepted by acclamation. Additional Director slots are available, and residents were encouraged to become involved. The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors is April 20, 2010, and the next general meeting of residents is May 18, 2010.

- Mitch Morgan of the Operations Division of Public Works Department of Gainesville showed a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Duck Pond Basin Hydrilla Control and Planting Plan." It is recommended that a second follow-up of the herbicide Endothall be applied the first week of May [last done in Oct. 2009]. Plantings of [mostly] native aquatic plants will occur the second week of June. Some of these will be harvested from successful plants used in the Depot Avenue pond remediation project. The plants that prosper in the Duck Pond will be augmented by more of the same in the future. Concern was expressed about the goose and duck currently living in the pond: would their access to the island be affected by the partial draw down required for planting new aquatic vegetation? Mitch thought that Gainesville's Nature Operations staff would be responsible for wildlife management during the process.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by substitute secretary,
Joanne B. Auth

Next meeting of the Board of Directors: April 20, 2010

Next meeting of the Duckpond Neighborhood Assoc.: May 18, 2010

* City Commission candidate Randy Wells (Pres.) and Melanie Barr (VP) were awaiting Gainesville City Commission election results and accepting a Matheson Museum award, respectively!