

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

7:00 p.m. at 105 Stanford, SE

I. Preliminary Items

- A. Call to order – Sherry Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- B. Introductions – Sherry Smith, Lanny Heinlen, Marlene Brown, Greg Gould, Joseph Aguirre, Augustine Grace, and Don Hancock.

II. Gilchrist House – Jim Trump and Erin Stewart of Build New Mexico, Glenn Fellows of SMPC, and Sujay Thakur, developer, discussed options for the House. Build New Mexico received the affordable housing designation from the city, but the house now has been “condemned” (declared substandard) and can be torn down. Jim and Erin met with Maryellen Hennessy last week to confirm that the house can be torn down, but they haven’t decided to do that yet. The houses on two south lots are doing well, are easy to rent with most tenants being students at UNM or CNM. Sujay Thakur has a storage building and child care center (Kid’s World-Shannon Brown, Director) on Coor’s near Sequoia and St. Joseph’s. He looked at Ron’s Camino Real as a possible child care center, but since it’s sold, he noticed the Gilchrist House and contacted Build New Mexico. Jim says that the idea would be a new building that looks like a Gilchrist-type house, but the use would be child care for children from 6 weeks and 5 years. Marlene asks if they’ll recycle things in the house, and Jim and Erin said that they would, though Glenn thinks only adobes may be able to be used in a fence. Sherry asks about other options. Jim suggests multi-family housing is a possibility. Sujay’s current facility has 12 employees, and he says that he expects that most employees at the Gilchrist site would be UNM students. He’d like to have a capacity of 90-102 children, the structure would be 6,000 square feet, plus a second story of about 1,500 square feet, with the outside being a playground area on the Cornell side. He’d also need a fence. Jim said that they might want to vacate lots lines and make it one parcel for the child care center and the existing housings. The proposed zoning change would be to add child care to the existing SU-1 zoning. Contact erin@buildnewmexico.org at 268-1200. Glenn’s contact information: g.fellows@smpcarchitects.com and 255-8668. We’ll discuss what other people think and get back to them.

III. Additional preliminary items

- A. Approval of agenda – Approved.
- B. Approval of minutes of June 1 meeting. Approved with two typo corrections.
- C. Financial Report – Received \$2 donation from the coupon in the newsletter; interest of 23 cents. Balance of \$2,378.14, plus \$1,075 in tree donations.
- D. Open forum – Marlene’s first class is the last weeks of August at 504 Yale. Someone poisoned a couple of the neighborhood roadrunners on the 400 block of Stanford; we’ll have an article in the next newsletter. Lanny says that there’s also been activity in the old part of the cemetery, so they might have used poison.

IV. Action/followup items

- A. Block Party – Saturday, September 18 on 100 block of Stanford from 3 to 6. Mayor’s

office is still working on whether parking permits will be available. Greg's band can't play because one of the members is having a baby. Joseph said that the street theatre people are interested, and he'll check with Brian and Jennifer.

- B. Newsletter – Need copy to Jennifer by August 25. Articles will be on the block party, Gilchrist House, Marlene's business, roadrunners, Lead/Coal, president's report.
- C. Zone change request to P (parking) for portion of 201 and 203 Harvard. Augustine Grace owns the property and explained that he wants to change the existing parking lot to a commercial parking lot. Augustine says that he's agreed to put in some landscaping along Silver and have a fence and landscaping on the south property line. After Augustine left, the board agreed to support the zone change request.
- D. Saffron sign – Lanny contacted the city, as did Sherry, and Kim in Zoning Enforcement thought there was no permit, but one of the restaurant people said that they did have the permits. Sherry will check again.
- E. Bricklight fence for Go Pita – One of the partners approved the fence in order to get the space rented. They'd like us to wait and see how the fence works, once the place is open by the end of August and then see if changes are necessary. General agreement to oppose the fence and ask the city to force its removal.

V. Committee reports

- A. Lead-Coal Task Force – The bids were fewer and higher than expected, and over budget, plus contingency. The neighborhoods have contacted Councilors Benton and Garduño about getting the additional funding. Next meeting is August 10 at 6.
- B. Crime and Safe City Project – Gus owns the property on Gold and Pine and there's been a lot of prostitution right there. He's been calling the police, but there's not a quick response. Laundromat at Lead and Silver have locked up their restroom. One of Marlene's neighbors says that there's been some drug traffic on her block recently.
- C. Gilchrist House – Already discussed.
- D. Neighborhood traffic/transportation – Ike Benton's assistant reports that a city consultant is preparing cost estimates for traffic studies on 100 – 400 blocks of Stanford and 200-300 blocks of Columbia. Traffic Engineering opposes stop signs on Garfield, but a consultant will prepare cost studies for additional speed studies that might result in consideration of other traffic calming measures; Marlene mentions that there are stop signs every two blocks on Garfield east of Girard. Ike soon will set up a meeting with UHA and BikeABQ people about the Silver Bike Boulevard.

VI. Discussion items/followup/updates

- A. Website/Facebook – Nothing.

VII. Officers' reports

- A. President – Southeast Area Police Office Appreciation Day is September ?, and we'll give them a \$50 gift certificate from the Coop.
- B. Vice President – Nothing further.
- C. Secretary/Treasurer – Nothing further.

VIII. Adjournment at 8:50 p.m.