

January Delegate Meeting
InterNeighborhood Council of Durham
January 28, 2025

Attending the meeting were:

Neighborhoods

Arrowhead – Ken Pugh, Melora McCall
Burch Avenue – Cristen Jones
Cross Counties – Pat Carstensen
Long Meadow – Pakis Bessias
Morehead Hill – Bruce Mitchell
Northgate Park – Keith M. Cochran
Old North Durham – Mimi O’Brien
Old West Durham – Dan Singer
Trinity Park – Mimi Kessler
Tuscaloosa-Lakewood – Susan Sewell
Watts Hospital Hillandale – Tom Miller, Sherri Zann Rosenthal

Guests

Jocelyn Dawson – Family Responsibility Zones for DPS
Aidil Ortiz – Durham Athletic Park Feasibility Study, Aidilisms
David Morgan – Carolina Arbors

President Mimi Kessler called the meeting to order, and folks introduced themselves.

Aidil is a member of a team to look at uses of the 5.42 acres of the **Old Durham Athletic Park**. It is now being used as a ball park and (very occasional) events venue. The park is not very accessible,, and we have a lack of open space in central Durham. There is no desire to make it private or build apartments there and we may decide that the current uses are fine, but we have begun a process of asking the community what they think. There is a survey (open until February 28, at bit.ly/dapfuture), they will be hosting in-person events, and they are reaching out to various communities around Durham. Please cascade information into your neighborhoods. There is more information at bit.ly/dapinfo.

Jocelyn brought us up to date on DPS’s new “Family Responsibility Zones,” where DPS is not providing transportation for students in larger areas around the schools. DPS has been struggling with a shortage of bus drivers all year. Children and families at Hope Valley Elementary have been very heavily affected by the larger responsibility zones; they have a lot of families who are doing shift-work so the situation is creating safety issues, with very busy streets and very young kids left to walk home alone; availability child-care, as an

alternative, is also an issues. The Hope Valley PTA and administration organized a session to try to find solutions, such as providing more space and staff for after-school slots and adding crossing guards. They also did a coat drive and are looking at after-school clubs that would be free. They are adding “slow down” signs around the school. Their neighborhood does not have a neighborhood organization or listserv, so they have had difficulty recruiting neighbors to assist as crossing guards. Unfortunately, the delegates could not offer any suggestions beyond what they are already doing.

Tom moved and Mimi O’Brien seconded to approve the November/December minutes (as published today). This passed.

Susan gave a Treasurer’s report, saying that we have \$7291.74. The main expenses have been for the listserve and mailbox, for a total of 203.20. Susan also gave a list of neighborhoods who have paid dues, and others say that the check is coming. In other years, we have had expenses for hosting candidate forums. Text from the website on dues:

Dues are \$25/year (January to December) but neighborhoods are encouraged to pay more than the minimum to support INC's work.

Please alert your neighborhood treasurer that INC dues for 2025 are due in January/February. Dues may be given to your INC rep who will give them to INC Treasurer, Susan Sewell, or they may be mailed to:

InterNeighborhood Council of Durham

732 Ninth St, #700

Durham, NC 27705

Tom moved that we admit Arrowhead as a full member of INC. Mimi O’Brien seconded. This passed. Arrowhead is bounded by Kerley, Erwin and Cornwallis Roads.

Cristen is working on a map of neighborhoods.

On the website and re-branding, Mimi Kessler has gotten a lot of photographs. We need to look at what text we have to what needs to be updated, replaced, or added. Mimi will put what she has into a word document; Bruce, Tom, Pat and Mimi O'Brien will look at it.

The Northgate Small Area plan is “in suspense” right now since the Walltown Small Area Plan is taking a lot of staff time.

Mimi Kessler tried to get a meeting with Planning and various organizations (PA, INC, Coalitions for Affordable Housing) about the effect of S382 on planning; Sarah declined because they are still talking to the attorneys. The text of the UDO update that is on the

public engagement site is still very sketchy, and the time that Council had in mind to pass the new code is rapidly approaching.

Moriah Ridge is a proposed development that will cause city territory to extend across the Urban Growth Boundary AND into the Orange/Chapel Hill rural buffer. This would be necessary because the developer cannot get water/sewer from Orange but can from Durham. The case will go to Council next week. New Hope Creek Corridor folks see a number of issues with the plan, as well as with the proposed apartments (<https://www.pickettroadzoning.com/>) next to Sandy Creek Park. Approving it will show exactly how much real support for infill the City Council really has. Everyone was encourage to tell city council to vote no.

Sherri has been involved with the coalition concerned with contamination (not just lead, but all the poisons found in the incinerator ash) of city parks. There was a public meeting this week about the issue. DEQ is talking about needing to put in monitoring wells and about possible contamination off site. They are talking about the “cap in place” method, which is basically a big, expensive band-aid as it doesn’t actually remove the contaminated soil. There was no money in the bond issues to remediate these parks. The City keeps saying they are waiting for state and/or federal money. The city budget needs to allocate a pot of money. It was generally agreed we should put a bond referendum of \$100M for clean up on the ballot and create a plan to get these parks cleaned up and opened to these communities again. . Sheri will send out the key points to send to Council.

It is a City of Durham election year. We started discussing what or how INC might participate in the process. We will put it on next month’s agenda.

The meeting adjourned.