



April 16, 2019 – Venue: Hawthorne’s Pizza

**Board Members, Committee Members, and Advisors in attendance:** Richard Darlington, Rex Jones, Kathy Hill, John Lincoln, Sherrie McLamb, James Scanlon, Paul DiPirro, Jack Miller, Ben Hutchins

**Guests:** Catherine Justice Hall, Elizabeth McCollum, Sardis Forest neighborhood; Silvana Espindola, Latino Community Credit Union; Frank Summers

**Excused absences:** Matt Chambers, Dean Brodhag

Welcome, Introductions, Treasurer Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Introductions</li> <li>• Correction and approval of previous minutes. Motion approved.</li> <li>• Paul DiPirro’s Treasurer’s Report was reviewed.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion of our Thursdays Live budget shortfall; we continue to seek sponsors, but Roy Goode has offered to cover what might be needed.</li> <li>○ Paul is looking at \$10,000 neighborhood matching grant for next year. Paul will reach out to Dave Molinaro and Nicole Storey to see if this grant might be used toward Mason Wallace Park (he might have his own intentions). Other ideas? Placemaking projects like artistic bus stops? Ask Lee Baumgarten if he’d like to suggest ideas? John Lincoln will reach out to Tom Warshauer to discuss possible art ideas along the corridor.</li> <li>○ Paul is also considering applying for a grant from Truliant. What to use it for?</li> <li>○ EMHS senior class car wash earned \$196 (putting those proceeds toward a plaque at Embrace, acknowledging the EMHS senior class’s contribution?)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chair/Vice Chair agenda items:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kathy: Paring down the intern position made sense in several ways, and we have a candidate in mind for the newly defined position. Discussion of hiring Marriana DiPirro, motion was approved unanimously (Paul DiPirro left the room for the discussion and the vote).</li> <li>○ Kathy: time for renewing Real Estate webpage ads, already two realtors have said that the \$500 essentially wasn’t a great ROI for them but Josh Starnes and I met today and he has ideas for another model.</li> <li>○ Kathy: Colleen Brannan will come to our May board meeting. What if each committee looked at their mandate to see what an influx of dollars would do to enhance their mandate? Board member comments from this discussion: “The value to me is what we do and the connection we have to the people in the community” “We are a voice for the community, to have a seat at the table – but we already do feel that we have a seat at the table” “Do we stay the course, or do we alter what we’re doing” “Are we too close so that we don’t <u>see</u> the things that we could/should be doing to be taken more seriously or to be more effective.” “I can see us building parallel communities, one that is for business and one for community.” Jack knows someone who might be</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>willing to advise us, Kathy Ridge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kathy: introduce Catherine and Elizabeth McCollum who live in Sardis Forest. They gave the history of their work in their neighborhood, which is in Matthews but they've had to work to get attention from the Town of Matthews. They've organized neighbors to advocate for their neighborhood's position with incoming development to mitigate the negative impacts of what they proposed (increase in traffic, loss of privacy, preserving trees, more fencing). Due to the inadvertent cutting down of 200+ trees, there was a \$100,000 fine imposed. They've been invited to have input into how this \$100K might best be used for the Monroe Corridor. Is there an Urban Design professional who could weigh in on what those funds could be used for?</li> <li>○ Kathy: introduced Silvana Espindola from the Latino Community Credit Union, new tenant at Meridian Place's office building, who gave us the history of her organization.</li> </ul>
<b>Government Committee Report</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● See highlighted sections of the attached report for Government committee updates.</li> <li>● Mason Wallace updates: Dave Molinaro is going to approach Hendrick, telling Hendrick that they are in communication with MoRA, but going it alone. He has asked for a MoRA board member to be on his steering committee. May 4 is next volunteer day. (Big requests: bathroom, shelter, exercise area, total price tag \$375,000-\$500,000).</li> <li>● MoRA Point site plan amendment community meeting was on April 2, good turnout, some new tenants were announced.</li> <li>● Re Silver Line: CATS relooked at the alignment and rather than go through Uptown, the new alignment will go around Uptown, with some controversy about that decision.</li> </ul>
<b>Arts, Culture &amp; Education Committee Report</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mural – Sherrie McLamb, Ari Rodriguez and Kathy Hill met with city rep Rachel Stark. The Water Dept has concerns about applying paint to the actual wall, so they've asked her to research alternatives such as 1) a digital wrap, and 2) a panel to be affixed to the wall.</li> <li>● Thursdays Live update from Rex Jones – we're ready for the 4/18 event</li> </ul>

<b>Communications Committee Report</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Social media and webpage visits continue to do well.</li> </ul>
<b>Business Outreach,</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>
<b>Next meeting(s)</b>	5 minutes
	Tuesday, May 21 at Hawthorne's Pizza, 6pm

Minutes by: Kathy Hill

[new information highlighted]

- I. Engagement with City Council/Commissioners
  - a. Will seek engagement with City and County governments MoRA related programs and initiatives, esp. those addressed by 2019 budget items.
    - i. 2019 City Budget
      1. Bike & Pedestrian
        - a. Vision Zero: \$2 million
        - b. Sidewalk and Pedestrian Safety: \$30 million
          - i. Jack had reached out to Angela Barry to get help with installing a traffic light or pedestrian beacon where Knickerbocker and Monroe intersect. After no progress, Jack and Ben have been working with Roy Goode and Matt Newton to push this.
            - ii. Ben Hutchins has been in contact with Will Wigg from Charlotte DOT to discuss how to request. Matt Newton put us in contact with Will.
        - c. Bicycle Travel: \$4 million
      2. Neighborhood Investments
        - a. Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Prog: \$40 million
        - b. Placemaking: \$250,000
          - i. Mural project in progress
        - c. Neighborhood Matching Grants: \$400,000
          - i. Need to apply
        - d. TreesCharlotte: \$100,000, in addition to the programmed FY19-20 endowment support of \$500,000 for an updated total of \$600,000
        - e. Neighborhood Reinvestment Program: \$5 million
    - ii. 2019 County Budget
      1. Parks and Rec - \$41 million budget, nearby Greenways on McAlpine, Irvins and Briar Creeks funded
        - a. Working Greenways for Meck, Park and Rec Commission and Town of Matthews in promoting this.
        - b. Dave Molinaro is heading up a citizen led-effort to partner with Park and Rec to improve Mason Wallace Park
          - i. Model for developing plans for improvements to McAlpine Creek Regional Park and at 5715 Monroe Road property.
          - ii. MoRA Reps met with Dave Molinaro, Roy Goode, Alex [ ] from Meck Co. Parks and Rec and other neighborhood leaders on 4/9/19 to discuss coordination on Mason Wallace funding requests (specifically Hendrick), options for improvements, potential funding sources, and how MoRA can support the effort.
          - iii. The Mason Wallace team asked if a MoRA Rep could sit on the steering committee for the Mason Wallace project. **Need to identify a MoRA participant to fill this role.**
            1. Per Dave Molinaro: *We meet as needed; we are in regular email contact; we may tour the park to plan a cleanup event; the four current members will lead volunteer work crews during cleanup events; we have split up attending several of the recent meetings that involve promoting and organizing for the major park improvements.*
          - iv. **Next Mason Wallace work day is May 4<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm.**
      2. CMS – Further East Meck improvements
  - b. Engagement status with local officials
    - i. City Council (District)
      1. Engagement – Newton (5); Bokhari (6); Egleston (1); Eiselt, Ajmera (AL)
        - a. Pushing for Knickerbocker intersection light with Matt Newton, as noted above.
      2. No engagement – Mitchell, Winston (AL)
    - ii. County Commissioners (District)
      1. Engagement – Jarrell (4); Harden (5)
      2. No engagement - Rodriguez-McDowell (6), Cotham, Fuller, Scarborough (AL); Dunlap (Chair, 3); Powell (Vice-chair, 1)
    - iii. Town of Matthews

1. Met with Mayor Paul Bailey, Town Manager Hazen Blodgett, and Senior Planner Jay Camp to introduce ourselves, offer MoRA's advocacy for Monroe Rd in Town of Matthews north of 51 and find common ground with pursuits (greenways).
    - a. Catherine Hall will be joining our board and has extensive expertise working with Matthews officials on Rezoning.
- II. Independence Trail/ Rama/Idlewild Intersection/Vision Workshop –
- a. Real estate acquisition has begun on the Briar Creek bike/ped improvement project
  - b. The project team has submitted right-of-way plans to the North Carolina Department of Transportation. A public meeting will take place in summer 2019 to share the final plans
- III. Rezoning
- a. MoRA Point Site plan Amendment \*2019-041\*
    - i. Public presentation scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Independence Library, hosted by Petitioner's Agent on behalf of Selwyn/ Suncap.
    - ii. Amendment requests increase in building space to accommodate a potential tenant. Full details not available yet - Jack is corresponding with Bridget Grant to obtain submission.
    - iii. Also will be opportunity for updates on progress on site development, including elements associated with opening of Aldi, buildout of road and path network, pending opening Starbucks and Verizon, and more.
    - iv. Meeting April 2<sup>nd</sup> was well attended. Summary posted on MoRA website.
- IV. Silver Line - <https://charlottenc.gov/cats/transit-planning/Pages/silver-line.aspx>
- a. In February, MTC amended plan.
    - i. Silver Line to the West corridor to go to the airport and Belmont.
    - ii. A route through Uptown was chosen
    - iii. Feasibility of extending West route to Gastonia and Southeast route to Union County (Stallings).
- V. UDO Advisory Committee
- a. Many upcoming engagement events – see <https://charlotteudo.org/get-involved/whats-new/> for details.
- VI. 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- a. 3 Public meetings held. More opportunities to engage and give input:  
<https://charlottenc.gov/charlottefuture/2040Plan/Pages/default.aspx>
- VII. 2019 Civic Open House
- a. In early planning stages, potential focus is on housing related issues:
    - i. Revaluation
    - ii. Affordable Housing (NOAH)
    - iii. Market trends
    - iv. Residential safety
    - v. Potential impacts of future transportation projects (US 74 FWY extension and connector roads, Streetscape, Silver Line, etc).