

NHCA, Inc. Community Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2009

Location: First Baptist Church -- 7 PM
Attendees: New Hill Community and friends of New Hill

Guest speaker

- Chris Brook from Southern Coalition of Social Justice (<http://www.southerncoalition.org/>)
 - Their mission is to respond to community-determined priorities. They view local social justice struggles from a global international human rights perspective.
 - Chris Brook grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. He attended UNC at Chapel Hill for his undergraduate and law degrees. During these years, he was active in the social justice movement, including serving a legal intern at the UNC Center for Civil Rights. After graduating from Carolina Law in 2005, he worked in private practice for three years at the Raleigh civil litigation law firm of Cranfill, Sumner and Hartzog. He has served as an adjunct professor at Carolina Law since 2007, teaching Researching, Reasoning, Writing and Advocacy. Most importantly, he is glad to be back working for social justice with the Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ).
 - After researching the circumstances surrounding the placement of a regional sewage plant in the center of New Hill, the SCSJ law office has agreed to take our case. Their first priority is to get us prepared for the upcoming Army Corps public hearing
 - Chris addressed our group letting the community know of SCSJ's commitment to New Hill. He briefly explained similar issues his firm has successfully been involved in such as Jackson Hamlet Community Action, Midway Neighborhood Association, and Waynor Road in Action, all minority communities in the Pinehurst area. SCSJ co-counseled with the UNC Center for Civil Rights. He also met with several attendees after the meeting for one on one discussion.

Old Business

- PE previously provided Paul Barth with some new programmable alert radios to replace our old alert radios. Paul still has a few units available for folks that would like one.
- New Hill NC Litter Sweep - Loretta Young is again leading this years New Hill NC Spring Litter Sweep day on April 25, 2009. Motto is "Neighbor to Neighbor: Keeping New Hill Litter Free and Beautiful"
 - Volunteers should meet at WT's store at 9 AM to receive instructions and supplies
 - There might be prizes to win from NCDOT!
 - Expect we need about 11 groups with 4 people per group for the project
 - Sweep is expected to take between one and two hours
 - Refreshments and drinks will be available at start of our sweep
 - Email will be sent to NHCA members with additional details
 - Last year's effort was very successful, let's do as well or better this year!

New and Future Business

- Morrisville Action PAC
 - Paul Barth attended a meeting with their Executive Committee. Jackie Holcombe (former Morrisville Town Councilwoman and strong supporter of New Hill) introduced Paul and explained the purpose of his attendance. Paul provided an expanded overview of New Hill's issue with the WWP regional sewage plant location and asked that they agree to form an alliance with NHCA similar to the alliance NHCA made with DavisDriveandHighHouse PAC. Motion was made and approved! They will also show their support for New Hill by speaking at the upcoming ACE public hearing.

- USACE
 - Received Draft EIS on Wednesday, March 11
 - Document will be posted to Federal and State Clearinghouse by Friday, March 13
 - **Announced schedule (all at Apex Town Hall):**
 - Open House – Tuesday, March 31, 2009 – 3 PM to 7 PM – 3rd floor
 - Open House – Tuesday, April 14, 2009 – 3 PM to 6 PM – 3rd floor
 - **Public Hearing – Tuesday, April 14, 2009 - 6 PM - 2nd floor**
 - **Written comments – until Tuesday, April 28, 2009**
 - Executive Committee has been working on which issues we will need to comment on during public hearing and will develop suggested narrative for each issue as a guide. Focus will be on “why Site 14 is wrong” for New Hill community
 - We need to identify volunteer speakers (sign up sheet) and assign issues. We expect to have one or more practice sessions before the public hearing like we did for the DENR hearing
 - Public hearing – recommend all attendees wear red shirts / blouses. We are also looking at making small signs to carry and hold
 - Harris Lake discharge (alternative discharge option)
 - According to the WWP web site, they are still making good progress on the study. Current indications are that this is a very feasible option that will provide WWP many cost savings such as many miles of reduced pipelines and elimination of a pump station. Key issue for New Hill will be if a determination can be made soon enough as to affect the plant location within sewage plant schedule.
 - WWP projected project schedule (projected):
 - DENR and USACE review of public comments – May and June 2009
 - Record of Decision (ROD) – July 2009
 - Permit applications – September 2009
 - Construction begins – early 2010
- Next Community Meeting
 - **Tentatively** scheduled for April 9 at 7 PM – New Hill Baptist Church

Open Forum

Adjourn