

ASHFORD ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6TH, 2010 MEETING

- 1.] Attendees: Gail Davidson, Scott Saulson, Tom Reilly, Kathy Glenn, Sandra Murray, Jeff Turnage, Chris Martin, guest presenter Ron Sprinkle.
- 2.] Ron Sprinkle gave a presentation on the recent approval of the Marist School Special Land use Plan.
- 3.] Bob Lundsten was a member of the DHOA, which has some three thousand members, before becoming a member of the Planning Commission. Patrick Ejike is taking early retirement.
- 4.] The AACABD could write Dekalb County CEO Burrell Ellis about the present quality of Dekalb County staff. Tom Reilly agreed to contact Wendy Butler about copies of the AACA Zoning Committee developers' checklist, and about if we have the AACA logo in high resolution. Another suggestion involved Gail Davidson writing Burrell Ellis about the overall ramifications of the Marist School Special Land Use Permit decision.
- 5.] Jeff Turnage reminded us that there is still the permitting process to go, with Mister Hari Karikaran said to promise that the County staff would "toe the line."
- 6.] Marist's residential neighbors may still challenge the Marist decision in court over a thirty day period, especially since the site plan doesn't formally exist yet. The AACABD is gravely concerned that because the Marist case sets a precedent that might allow development to penetrate ANY areas that the Tree Protection Ordinance protects, that developers will be "lining up" to purchase Kathryn Zickert's services.
- 7.] Tom Reilly reported that the National Wildlife Federation no longer wants to pursue Marist's certification as an NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat.
- 8.] The AACA went from facilitator to decision maker in the Marist issue, and wants to revert to its advisory role while neighborhood groups clarify their roles and leadership. "The reason that the AACA exists is to take a position." Ground rules on AACA representation will avoid "muddying the waters" in future e. g. taking a "here are your options" approach.. The better our reputation, the greater our influence.
- 9.] The AACABD extends its deepest sympathy to Jeff Turnage over the loss of his trademark ponytail!! It'll grow back, Jeff!!
- 10.] The AACABD does take the basic stance that it should not contribute to any legal fund, should guarantee neighbor meetings with county officials, should have active neighborhood delegates at its meetings. Someday it hopes to have a nine sector AACA, each with its own chair.
- 11.] Tom Reilly and Sandra Murray have agreed to contact Saint Martin's in the Fields Episcopal Church about using their location for a series of bi-monthly general meetings: getting the neighborhoods to talk to each other, political candidate forums, guest speakers, programs, etc. Possible opening date of Wednesday, April 21st, at 7PM or Thursday, June 17th at 7PM.
- 12.] Gail Davidson will check with Paul DeFriece on more economical website management. All minutes are to be submitted to the website after disbursal to the AACABD.
- 13.] Motions approved: Agenda's Conflict of Interest Section with the exception of Article 3 [GD motion, KG 2nd], no AACA member may assist or advise a member "nor any resident in the AACA area of operations in any manner that might be viewed as contrary" to a AACABD position [SS motion, GD 2nd]. Comments, additions, or corrections are welcome!--TR