

Steele Creek Residents Association Annual Meeting Notes, February 27, 2020

About the Association

As stated in the Association's Bylaws, *"The Steele Creek Community consists of that area of southwestern Mecklenburg County, North Carolina that generally lies south of Charlotte Douglas International Airport and west of Sugar Creek and I-77. The objectives of the Association are community enrichment and progress through the improvement and preservation of the quality of life for all its residents."*

Venue

The organization's 2020 annual meeting was graciously hosted by Kennedy Middle School Principal Kevin Sudimack who spoke briefly and shared his continuing commitment to serving the Steele Creek community. He also mentioned his pride in Kennedy Middle School's being recognized as a "School of Distinction."

About 150 residents and guests attended the meeting, and the gym floor was occupied by 28 non-profit organizations during a well attended one-hour meet & mingle event.

Welcome

SCRA President Karl Froelich welcomed attendees and previewed the meeting agenda. He then introduced and expressed appreciation on behalf of the community to the public servants in attendance:

- Steele Creek Volunteer Fire Dept
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Dept

SCRA member Dave Wiggins was recognized for his many contributions to the association including maintenance of the SCRA website and the tremendous work he does to organize the "meet & greet" element of each annual association meeting.

Mr. Froelich then encouraged meeting attendees to join any of four SCRA committees to help represent the interests of the community – Roads & Mass Transit, Schools & Education, Greenways & Parks, and Rezonings & Land Use. An email address was provided for each and is included in the attached slide presentation.

Finally, mention was made of several SCRA accomplishments since it was formed to represent the interests of the community:

- starting with successfully opposing a biological incinerator on Tryon back in the 80s,
- promoting a divided highway on hwy 49,
- centralizing retail at Rivergate, Ayrsley and Berewick,
- encouraging a local hospital to be in area,
- supporting new parks and greenways,
- stopping a major development with hotels and convention center on Lake Wylie,
- petitioning for HWY 160 to be built sooner,
- promoting a new high school, middle school and elementary,
- supporting a new larger YMCA.
- Providing local feedback on rezoning petitions to Planning, City Council, developers and attorneys

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Introductions

Board member Virginia Keogh recognized public servants and candidates running for public office who were present including:

Public Servants:

- Chaz Beasley – NC State Representative (& Candidate for NC Lt. Governor)
- Aretha Blake – District Court Judge
- Natasha Marcus – NC State Senator District 41
- Victoria Watlington -- Charlotte City Council District 3
- Lenora Shipp -- CMS School Board at Large
- Susan Rodriguez--McDowell, Mecklenburg County Commissioner District 6
- Vilma Leake – Mecklenburg County Commissioner District 2

Candidates:

- Deandra Salvador--NC State Senator District 39
- Terry Brown—NC House District 92

SCRA Board

Current SCRA Board Members were introduced with special recognition given to retiring members Karla Knotts (Treasurer) and Walter Neely who each served for more than 25 years.

Three previously nominated candidates were approved by voice vote to fill upcoming positions on the Association's Board – Carla Brazzell, Abdul Sihlangu, and Justin McDonald.

Presentations

Please access these links for details on the two keynote presentations:

- Greenways <https://steelecreekresidents.org/images/2020AnnualMeeting/MCPR-Greenways-SteeleCreek-022720FINAL.pdf>
- Steele Creek 2040 Vision <https://steelecreekresidents.org/images/2020AnnualMeeting/2020-SCRA-meeting-Vision-2040-KF-Final-for-posting.pdf>

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Area Traffic/Transportation Concerns – Special Mention

City Council member Victoria Watlington provided a brief report on her efforts regarding area traffic concerns. There are apparently several “touch points” including:

- NC-Department of Transportation (<https://www.ncdot.gov/Pages/default.aspx>),
- Charlotte-Department of Transportation <https://charlottenc.gov/Transportation/Pages/default.aspx>,
and
- the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (<https://www.crtpo.org/about-us>).

Some coordination with South Carolina’s York County is also necessary.

Ms. Watlington is hosting a listening session via Town Hall Meeting on the subject of area transportation. It will be held at Kennedy Middle School on March 19th beginning at 6:30 P.M.

Conclusion

We encourage anyone unfamiliar with the Steele Creek Residents Association to learn more by looking at the following websites. If you like what you see and what SCRA is doing, please consider becoming a member (annual dues are only \$10 per household). Provide your contact information and send your check to PO Box 38628, Charlotte 28278.

<https://www.steelecreekresidents.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SteeleCreek/>