

September 28, 2021

### Eastland Parkway Neighborhood Association Meeting

Dixie Elementary Principal, Cynthia Bruno: It is her goal that in the next 5-10 years, Dixie Elementary will be a national model for personalized learning. It is a very rare model, heavily supported by research. It is unique with the magnet program and the staff supported way for students to learn.

Dixie is very open to different opportunities. With COVID it is more difficult to bring people into the building, but as it slows down they will need readers and mentors for children. Neighbors can email or call to volunteer.

The land right behind the school, possibly Buloxi Ct, has very overgrown grass. Several kids walk throughout that area and fire drills require kids to stand on that grass. The school reached out to the city who stated that that area of land is a Neighborhood Association regulated area.

President Andrew Austin- Clarified that that piece of land is Parks Department. Parks have reduced the amount of mowing in the name of naturalized areas, but AA has spoken to them regarding the tall grass and they will be increasing the area mowed in a few weeks. If it is still not enough. Dixie is able to reach out to AA to follow up with Parks.

CB: Goal is to continue to support Dixie and make it a special place. She can be contacted at her email,

Email- [Cynthia.bruno@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:Cynthia.bruno@fayette.kyschools.us)

The magnet program pulls students in from all over Fayette Co but also has students from the district. It provides a lot of diversity. CB also mentions that she loves seeing the rose bushes as she drives to work each day.

Betsy Noland- How many students?

CB- 525, 2 new ones today

AA- what is the most surprising thing that COVID has made difficult?

CB- Currently, it is quarantining students when they are within close proximity of a positive person. It could take 10 kids at a time out of the classroom. Teachers are juggling teaching the kids at home while also teaching the kids that are right in front of them.

Dixie is hosting weekly testing in their car lane that is free to everyone from 11a-1p. Any time kids are sick, families are encouraged to get tested which has caused asymptomatic positive to come up much more often than was expected. CB does not believe that Dixie has more positives than other schools, just that they are encouraging more frequent testing of students.

Barb Hatton- Is Dixie still the only school left with "Open Classroom Concept?"

CB- yes. I think it is one thing that makes Dixie so special. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> school that CB has worked in during her career and Dixie has the most collaborative staff because they are in a room with 3-4 other teachers. The most recent switch to remote learning happened in 2 hours and all the other teachers jumped in to help each other. Many of the teachers say that they love the complex and enjoy working in an environment without walls

Susan Ecton- Enjoys seeing all the signs and visual support for Dixie Dolphins.

CB- With half of the population being all over the district, it is good to show that support throughout the city.

Loys Mather- How did students progress last year with virtual learning?

CB- They became very flexible and grew in a lot of areas that cannot be measured with a standardized test. No surprise, but the data was not as strong as it has been in the past. It has been a hard 18 months. There were drops in student reading levels, and that has become a focus for this year. Does not like to consider it "learning loss" however, there are some deficits in core academics.

AA- Please let us know when Dixie is open for visitors again. There are several in the neighborhood would want to volunteer. There has been an increased burden in a lot of fields but we know that a lot of that has fallen on teachers. Thank you for all you do.

Next we will hear from Councilmember David Kloiber.

Council member David Kloiber- there are a few things going on in the area

- First, DK participated in an event sponsored by the YMCA called Step Up for Kids in which he walked 100,000 steps in one day which is about 50 miles. It took 18 hours and a whole village worth of people, but it was all to raise money for afterschool educational programs through the YMCA. About \$20,000 was raised in one day.
- Brighton Rail Trail Bridge- This is the bridge that goes over Man O War and is open as of yesterday. The trail is available for walking or biking and connects about 4 miles worth of trail. Eventually, the hope is to connect entire city by trails but that might be a few decades away. Currently it goes from Liberty out to the 12<sup>th</sup> district and into the rural areas out there.
- ARPA money- still making decisions on how to spend the funds. These will be discussed as a whole committee on September 30, October 12,14, 26 at 4pm. Tune in to hear these discussions.
- Paper Recycling- recycling in the home will resume in March 2022. The new equipment that is coming in will allowing for more sorting of paper products. More information will be available closer to time. The changing of equipment is set to shut down the plant for an entire 13 weeks. This is to take place approximately December to March

Neighbor- Asking for clarification on the funds. Have they not been allocated to something specific?

DK- The Mayor put in the paper all the items on her Wishlist. She has brought those items to Council to be voted on. Some of them have been moved through into Committee. The Council Members are sticking to the process to be as fair as possible. The goal is for this money to impact as many people as possible

\*Opens the floor for questions\*

SE- Are there any updates about the recycling being dumped in the garbage truck?

DK- It has been investigated. There are some trucks that are equipped to pick up both, but it actually has 2 separate bins within the truck itself. If this is not the case and there is something going wrong, please report to 311.

Reminds everyone to reach out to the office or to Deborah with any questions or concerns.

AA- next we will hear a report from Neighborhood Resource Officer Andy Cain.

Neighborhood Resource Office Andy Cain-

- Speed Trailer- The data is available for the Temporary Speed Trailer. From looking at it, speeding is not much of an issue here. Tickets are not even written for 10 mph over. If you take away everything that was 45 and above, it is less than 3.5% of drivers going through there. 85% of drivers are going from 30- 44 mph. This was on the Winchester Rd side.

Neighbor- It needs to be on the other end. During 830 am walk every morning, cars are flying by.

NRO AC- Will be looking into putting a speed trailer on the New Circle side but cannot guarantee any extra police presence even if the data shows speeding.

AA- Can Neighbor give a side street for reference of where the speeding is worst?

Neighbor- Walks from Cantrill through Jennifer. In the evening the speeding is moving in the opposite direction.

NRO AC- I will put in another request but it will likely take 3-4 weeks

- Jennifer Rd and Martha Ct areas- many of the people in that area are not interested in the resources offered. AC recommends not approaching any one due to drug and alcohol use and/or mental state. If there is an emergency, dial 911. During the day, Neighbors can send AC a text or email to notify him of unruly behavior. If he is in the area, he will swing by. If not, he will send someone over.

Neighbor- is there something for businesses who get several calls where they will get fined after so many complaints?

AC- it depends on what the call is for.

Neighbor- Loitering

AC- That store near the Marathon and the liquor store next to it are not checking anyone for IDs, as AC was recently made aware. For example, a man AC had cited for drinking in public told AC that he did not have an ID then went into the Liquor store and came out with new alcohol. AC will be getting other department involved to review permits.

BH- what are the reflectors put on New Circle Rd

AC- Those also surprised AC when he saw them. They are also located on parts of Eastland. They are a safety precaution and likely to keep people from turning left into the gas station.

AA- Saw them being installed Sunday evening. They severely shorten the space to merge into the turning lane. Hopefully that does not cause other issues.

AC- because that is a state road, it may not have been something that went through the city. The city would have installed the ones on Eastland but New Circle is a state road.

Neighbor- Chick-fil-A on New Circle Rd has traffic backed up

AC- The back up issue may resolve as they get more people to work there. We will address that problem as time goes on. It's a popular restaurant. It is no different than when Tudor's Biscuit World first opened. If the issue continues, police presence may be able to assist with traffic control, especially in the early morning hours.

AC information can be found through EPNA emails.

AA- thank you to NRO AC and our other speakers from the night.

- Next item on the list is the approval of the July Meeting Minutes. Roy has posted them on the website. Motion to approve?
  - o Motioned, seconded, all in favor, motion carries

Treasurers Report-Loys Mather- So far this year, a little over \$2000 has come in with dues and donations. \$2,526 was also deposited into the account with special designation from the board. The only expenses since July was for \$101.84 for newsletters and about \$100 for electricity. As of September 8<sup>th</sup>, the last donation, our balance is \$13,220.43. Keep in mind we owe \$850 for shrubs that were planted last fall but are being replaced. We will not pay that balance until the correct ones are planted.

AA-

- Neighborhood Yard Sale- lots of good feedback. The count was up to about 25 or 30. Biggest negative feedback was that it was too hot. Future Yard Sales will look at Spring dates to avoid the heat and UK football Schedule.
- Neighborhood Development Funds- This will be used for the implementation of a new website as well as membership software. The Board is still looking for the best ones to fit our needs and to be good stewards of our funds. On that note, if you see anything from "Wild Apricot" it is not spam.
- Homelessness Concerns voiced by neighbors- NRO AC addressed this and many of those on Martha Ct have been able to discuss their concerns with him. If there are further issues, they can be brought to the attention of President Andrew Austin, NRO Andy Cain, or via the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Colonel Dick Allen email.
- Naturalized Area of Dixie Park- The Parks Department will be mowing the entire area in the next few weeks, according to their supervisor. Going forward they will be mowing a little bit further each time they mow. If you see areas that need more attention, let the Board know. Recently the Board discussed planting some ornamental grasses to block some of the weeds growth around the perimeter because the city will not continue to mow that area.
- Creek area between Gaidry and Eastland- Several neighbors have had issues with it flooding their yards and spilling out into storm drains. A request has been put into Environmental Quality to come out and do a full investigative study.
- Block Captains- Still in need of volunteers for Block Captain. The responsibility is only 5 times per year. It is a great way to get to know neighbors.

Next meeting will potentially be November 16<sup>th</sup>. The normal date would fall on November 23<sup>rd</sup> but that is only 2 days before Thanksgiving. That date is tentative based on COVID numbers and weather.

Thank you to our regular guests as well as Principal Bruno from Dixie Elementary.

Neighbor- There is tremendous amount of litter. Does anyone have ideas about that? There is a neighbor, Lee, who picks up trash 2 times per day. The trash is bad and an eyesore. From Jennifer to the Eastland Park, a whole bag can be filled with trash.

LM- Several years ago she was recognized in the Newsletter and asked to come to the meeting but she prefers to keep to herself.

Neighbor- she lives on a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Jennifer apartment but I make sure to give her a newsletter every time they come out.

AA- That is a good point. Not sure what kind of answer the EPNA can provide at this time but it is a good thing to discuss to try and recruit more helpers.

NRO AC- litter is a major pet peeve of AC. He will write a ticket if he catches you littering.

AA- The litter is likely a contributing factor to the water flow issues. This issue can be further discussed by the Board and others for good ideas.

LM- if you are on a block with a rosebush and are able, prune back the bushes to about 18". This way they will grow and bloom faster and it will save some work on the spring clean up.

Neighbor- what about the sidewalks? Who is responsible for that upkeep?

AA- Some of them are probably owned by the city, but many of them are the responsibility of the property owner. If there are specific areas of concern, email the EPNA email and we can find out whose responsible for that area.

Neighbor- An area on Eastland Parkway near Raleigh and near Winchester Rd.

AA- Please write those areas down or send an email.

Deborah Slone- if you can get the closest address to the area, it can be reported to 311. 311 can contact the property owner and if it is addressed early enough in the fiscal year, there are some funds allotted for that.

DK- with very few exceptions, the sidewalks in the city are the responsibility of the property owner.

BH- when there was a car wreck on the corner of her property, the city informed her that her property only went to the creek and the sidewalk was their responsibility. BH is responsible for mowing but it is not her property. What about by the churches?

DK- With very few exceptions, the city does not own or repair the sidewalks in the city itself. Some of the exceptions may be the ones you are talking about, but it is best to contact 311

AA- Please let us know by sending an email for specific locations. Photos are also helpful.

Neighbor- In regard to the speeding issues, would we be able to get sidewalks on the other side of Eastland?

AA- An email has been sent to Deborah regarding this issue that AA can forward. It is an application process. No petition involved but all who own property that it will be on have to agree to it.

Neighbor- expressed concerns about speeding at the Raleigh intersection.

AA- NRO AC is putting in a ticket for another speed trailer. There was a hesitation to the speed humps due to snow removal and emergency vehicles.

Neighbor- Saw a difference in the speed of passersby when the speed trailer was up on the Winchester Rd side from vantage point of the back porch

AA- Unfortunately it cannot park there full time as there are only about 4 or 5 in the city.

If there are any additional concerns, the speakers will be available after the meeting, or anyone can contact the board at the EPNA email.