

FRIENDS OF FIVE POINTS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 6

Issue 1

March 2010

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

There are several very important items in this newsletter that I would like to bring to your attention. First, FOFP really needs your help and involvement to stay afloat as an organization. Volunteering at this very local level can be rewarding and fun, and we hope that several of you will consider joining one of the committees listed in our call for volunteers. Thanks to those of you who have already come forward. We just need a few more people to round out our committees.

Second, we recently submitted the results of the Infill survey to the ACC Mayor and Commission. Please see the re-cap article in this newsletter, and if you haven't yet had the chance to read the report, please see www.friendsoffivepoints.org. Our special thanks go to Carol Goerig, Susan Field, Rosemarie Goodrum, and members of the Infill Development Working Group for the extra effort on this project.

Finally, I am proud to tell you that our Easter Egg Hunt tradition continues! On Saturday April 3rd at 11am, join us for our Fifth Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Memorial Park. Bring your children, grandchildren, and yourselves to the park to meet the Easter Bunny and enjoy a great day in the neighborhood. Our special thanks to ACC Leisure Services, who are co-sponsoring the event this year.

Have a great Spring!

Sara Beresford
FOFP President

5TH ANNUAL FOFP EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY, APRIL 3 11:00 A.M. MEMORIAL PARK

The 5th annual Friends of Five Points Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Memorial Park at 11 AM on Saturday, April 3rd. Bring your family to see the Easter Bunny and take part in our neighborhood tradition. Everyone is welcome to this free family event, which is co-sponsored this year by ACC Leisure Services. Please come to the lower field next to the children's playground. We need volunteers to arrive early for set-up; please send an e-mail to Sara Beresford if you can volunteer (info@friendsoffivepoints.org).

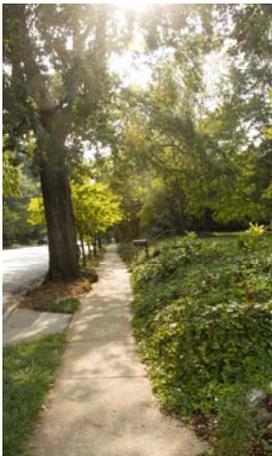


**SEE
YOU
THERE!**

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF FIVE POINTS LISTSERV

Share news and events, connect with your Five Points neighbors, seek recommendations for local services, etc.

www.friendsoffivepoints.org



COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES: PLEASE HELP FOFP!

Friends of Five Points needs your help! We are re-forming three committees and are asking you to consider showing your support and pride in our neighborhood by becoming involved. The formation of these committees is key to sustaining FOFP functions over time. If several people in the community are willing to come forward and donate a small amount of their time, we can continue to be a strong neighborhood organization.

Please consider joining one of the following committees. The committees will meet as needed, elect a chair and will report to the FOFP board at quarterly board meetings.

Newsletter Committee

General help with article ideas and writing/editing pieces for the newsletter.

Membership Committee

Plan the annual membership drive, discuss our current membership strategy and how to grow and evolve our membership. Ideally at least one person on this committee would be a member of the business community. At least one person on the committee should be comfortable with Excel.

Communications Committee

The communications committee is responsible for all non-newsletter communications activities, such as the listserve and the website. Committee will devise and carry out an overall communications strategy. If you are savvy with electronic communication, website planning, social media, etc., this is a great committee for you.

Legal Counsel

We seek a person with legal expertise who can help us ensure that we have all our ducks in a row with things like our legal status, insurance, operating within our by-laws, etc.

Becoming more involved in your local community can be a very rewarding activity. If you wish to serve on one of these committees, please send an e-mail to fivepointsathens@gmail.com as soon as possible.

UPDATE ON INFILL DEVELOPMENT IN FIVE POINTS

At the start of the new decade, FOFP submitted the much-anticipated infill report to the A-CC Mayor and Commission at its January 2010 meeting. This article will recap some of the major ideas and activities that spurred the report.

Like many other established in-town neighborhoods across the country, Five Points has experienced infill construction that is affecting its character. Many of the infill projects occurring in Five Points since 2005 have been undertaken without sensitivity to the character of our neighborhood. **As a result, these projects served as a wake-up call for the Friends of Five Points neighborhood organization and indicated that it was necessary to address this issue in a timely and proactive manner.** In early 2005, FOFP created the Long Range Planning Committee to study infill construction trends in the Five Points neighborhood, and to find out how other communities were addressing this issue. Because Five Points is such a large and diverse area, the committee concluded that there was no one approach that would work for the entire neighborhood and further investigation and studies were needed.

Coincidentally, in February 2008, a report entitled the *Athens-Clarke County Infill Housing Study* was issued by the A-CC Planning Department. This study examined trends related to the design and construction of new single-family homes within traditional neighborhoods of Athens and signaled to A-CC residents that the time was right for discussing infill development. A-CC Commissioners Alice Kinman and Kathy Hoard suggested that a survey be developed in order to assess the attitudes of Five Points residents on the infill issue. At this point, the Long Range Planning Committee was reorganized as the Infill Development Working Group. Its purpose was to create a survey, distribute, and then summarize the results of this survey. The survey was distributed to 1,345 owner occupied residences in Five Points in March 2009. Three hundred and seventy-one (371) or 27.6% of households to whom the survey was mailed responded. Three hundred and forty-six or 93.3% of those respondents indicated that they were concerned about infill and were in favor of "compatible" infill construction. More than half (58%) of the respondents also indicated a willingness to participate in neighborhood discussions to develop a community vision for the future of the Five Points neighborhood.

(continued on page 3)

WE  FIVE POINTS!

(continued from page 2)

At the January 2010 meeting, Mayor Davison said she would consult with Commissioners Hamby and Girtz, who chair the Government Operations Committee and the Legislative Review Committee, concerning the interest of their colleagues and to determine what approach could be taken to pursue the recommendations in the report. Commissioner Hoard thanked the FOFP committee for its work on the survey and report and stated that she looked forward to reviewing the report. She indicated that she felt strongly that if the survey had been distributed throughout the A-CC community the responses would echo the results contained in this report. Commissioner Kinman also thanked the FOFP committee and Carol Goerig for their work on the report. She indicated that she had a “sneak” peak at the report and felt that it was well done and readable; she was also impressed with the almost 30% response rate in the return of the survey. Commissioner Kinman expressed her hope that the recommendations in the report would enjoy the wide support of her colleagues and added that even though the *A-CC Infill Housing Study* reported that the majority of infill construction in A-CC has not occurred in Five Points, the FOFP *Infill Report* could serve as a model for other A-CC neighborhoods that are experiencing this trend.

Finally, as we reflect on this long process begun in 2005, we realize there is much yet to be done. It is important that the A-CC Mayor and Commission continue to address the recommendations made in the *A-CC Infill Housing Study* and to consider the recommendations included in the FOFP report, particularly those that would address major renovations and additions to existing houses. We hope that the A-CC Government will work with FOFP to determine and carry out the next steps needed to encourage compatible infill development and to preserve the character of the Five Points neighborhood.

We want to thank the many people who have been involved with all aspects of the process that created the survey, distributed it, tallied the results, and wrote the report. Thanks go to Sara Beresford, Carol Goerig, Susan Field, Rosemarie Goodrum, Alice Kinman, Kathy Hoard, and members of the Long Range Planning Committee and Infill Development Working Group, and to others who are too numerous to mention here but helped immeasurably.

UPDATE: In an email dated March 17, 2010, Mayor Davison indicated that the Planning Department staff has reviewed the FOFP *Infill Report* and was impressed with the work that had been done. The next steps would be for Commissioners Kinman, Hoard, and the Mayor to determine the interest of the other A-CC commissioners for requesting that this be sent to the Planning Department staff with a formal request for including it in its program of work. Once this request is made, the Planning staff can then determine the scope of work, timeline, etc. for bringing forward any potential text amendments, etc.

The FOFP *Infill Report* is available at <http://www.friendsoffivepoints.org>

An article by Blake Aued in the Athens-Banner Herald on the FOFP *Infill Report* is available at



Photos courtesy of Julie Moon of Julie Moon Photography