

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE QUARTER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The College Quarter Neighborhood Association is now 13 years old, its birth occurring on the evening of January 12, 1995 on the porch of the home of Karen and Gary Manfredi who lived at 739 Antonette, the home now owned by Jim and Sally Rogers. There were 12 neighbors present including Roger Barrows, Steve Coutant, Janet and Terry Doyle, Nancy and Mike Galyeon, Rhoda and Ken Hebert, Nancy LaPorte (now Nancy Shaw), Helen Sheddon, and Bill Tscherfinger. Terry Doyle drafted the By Laws for the association prior to the meeting and they were attested by those present for a period of one year.

My husband, Dave, was a Math Professor at Rollins College and had his first sabbatical from Rollins during the school year of 1993-94. Before we went away for the year, a good friend, Jean Kemble, held a going away tea for me. Among the guests at the tea was Polly Seymour, wife of the President Emeritus of Rollins College, Thaddeus Seymour. Polly made a going away card for me that said – go away, have a wonderful year, but when you come back be prepared to do something. Of course, I wondered about that suggestion and what it might mean. We came back in the fall of 1994. I noticed an article in The Orlando Sentinel announcing a symposium being offered in Winter Park called “Winter Park Perspectives”. The symposium was being sponsored jointly by the City of Winter Park, the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce, and Rollins College. Topics for presentation and discussion included every aspect of our life in this city – history, transportation, education, business climate, parks and recreation, etc. I paid my \$25 and signed up. The symposium was wonderful. As part of it, all participants had an opportunity to take a guided bus tour of Winter Park. My guide was Stephen Pategas, landscape architect from Orwin Manor. I was impressed by the Orwin Manor Park that we saw on the tour and wanted such a park for our own neighborhood. The week after the symposium, I went to visit Bill Carrico, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Winter Park. I asked Bill how our neighborhood could get its own park. He said that it would be necessary to have a neighborhood association.

I thought of the idea of combining the two Neighborhood Watch groups that now form the College Quarter. I called Stanley Wilson, organizer of the College Place Replat Neighborhood Watch group, to see if he was interested in joining with the Trotters Replat Neighborhood Watch group in forming the association. I was involved with Lisa Shackelford in forming the Trotters Replat Neighborhood Watch. (The College Quarter is made up of two replats – the College Place Replat which consists of French, Antonette, Vitoria, and one block of Holt Avenue and – the Trotters Replat made up of Maryland, McIntyre, Huntington, Pennsylvania, and several blocks of Holt Avenue.) Stanley was agreeable to the idea, and so we proceeded from there.

Don Martin had been hired by the City of Winter Park to be the new Director of Planning and Community Development. His leadership was extremely important to the pattern of development that has occurred in the city during the last fourteen years. Citizen participation was desired in planning for the future of the city. Charrettes, planning sessions involving citizens and professional planners, were used to create visions of what could be done to

enhance the city. For instance, the beautiful entrance gates to Rollins College were first sketched by a professional planner from Miami who was helping to lead the charrette to develop and enhance Park Avenue. I saw that we could use the charrette model for our neighborhood and so organized some workshops to plan improvements for the College Quarter Neighborhood. We applied for and received a grant for \$8,000 from the city to develop a master plan for the College Quarter Neighborhood. The private planning company, EDAW, was hired to take the visioning we had done in our workshops and to create a master plan for the future development of the College Quarter. The plan was published in a small book with the excellent help of Lindsey Hayes, a resident of our neighborhood and a professional planner on the staff of the city Department of Planning and community Development. Lindsey put together the work of EDAW with a nice summary of the history of our neighborhood. The first project completed was the creation and installation of neighborhood signage at the entrances to the College Quarter. As a result of our planning work, the neighborhood was able to bring in the beautiful new street-lights. Through the good work of Lindsey, Margie Bridges, and Barbara DeVane, the College Quarter became the first historic district in Winter Park. As an historic district, Margie, Barbara, and Lindsey were instrumental in working with the developer of the College Quarter Bungalows to achieve an infill that was compatible with the neighborhood's historic character. We look forward to the rejuvenation of Holt Avenue later this spring or summer when it is to be recurbed and bricked. A more recent manifestation of the power of the College Quarter Neighborhood Association was the collaboration between the neighborhood and Rollins College on the redesign of the college parking area along Hannah Way.

Another aspect of the work of the association includes our partnership with the city's Code Enforcement Department and Police Department. The neighborhood association provides a resource to help neighbors who have complaints about other neighbors with regard to the breaking of city law.

The most popular part of the College Quarter Neighborhood Association work has to do with our social lives. Beginning in December of 1996 CQNA has had an almost annual Holiday Wanderings Christmas Party featuring three homes with a progressive meal. Children have been welcome as well as adults. I can remember some years back that we were also entertained by the son of Glen and Lisa Norvell who played Christmas carols beautifully on a piano in one of the homes. Shaina Markulin, as our young and enthusiastic past-President, planned a variation on a theme and organized the Christmas party on a closed-off Antonette Avenue, with festive tables arranged on the street and the visitation of Santa Claus for the children. For several years Frank and Angela Roark inaugurated and put on the neighborhood Spring Art Festival Party in their back yard. The garden was strung with tiny white lights, and a live musician strummed his guitar and sang for us. We all brought food to share. It was a party no one wanted to miss. For the last few years, the Markulins carried on the tradition of the Art Festival Party on the College Place Replat lot on Lake Virginia.

Another tradition that has been important to many of us is Clean Up Day – usually held on a Saturday morning in April around the time of Earth Day. A small gang of us gather on the steps

of the Ninth Grade Auditorium to go about the neighborhood picking up trash, washing street signs, and trimming greenery that has overgrown the sidewalks. At times the city has provided a dumpster for us to fill with material that needs to be carted away.

The work of the College Quarter Neighborhood Association is diverse. If many people in the neighborhood pitch in to help, the work-load is light and pleasant. Our dream is for the College Quarter Neighborhood Association to continue into the distant future helping to preserve and enhance the lives of those who live here.

Judy Kurtz

April 4, 2008

Founding President of the College Quarter Neighborhood Association

1994 through 1999

P.S. Below is listed the normal activities of the College Quarter Neighborhood Association in a given year:

February Annual meeting—election of officers, presentation by the winter Park Police Department of a Neighborhood Watch program

March Annual Art Festival Party—Saturday night of the Winter Park Art Festival

April Clean Up Day—a Saturday morning—usually near Earth Day

December First Sunday evening in December—Holiday Wanderings—progressive party in three different homes—appetizers, main dishes, desserts

Board Meeting of CQNA—probably in October, January April

Publication of College Quarterly Newsletter – Three or four times a year related to association activities