



CHARLOTTESM

**City Council
Follow-Up Report**

October 31, 2014

September 22, 2014 – Council Business Meeting

Optimist Park Community Association Concerns

During the Citizens' Forum, Pauline Simuel, appeared before City Council and spoke on two issues of concern regarding Optimist Park. The first is a request for a new traffic signal at the intersection of E. 18th Street and Parkwood Avenue, and the second, the identification of the Optimist Park Neighborhood.

Request for New Traffic Signal

Staff Resources: Charles Abel, CDOT, 704-336-3945, cabel@charlottenc.gov

Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) staff conducted an investigation regarding Ms. Pauline Simuel's request for a traffic signal at the intersection of E. 18th Street and Parkwood Avenue. Staff reviewed site conditions, crash data, street connectivity, and design plans for the Blue Line Extension (BLE) Light Rail Project. Based on the review and investigation, CDOT does not recommend installation of a traffic signal at this intersection due to low traffic volume and connections to other streets.

Staff understands the challenges turning left out of E. 18th Street due to the curve on Parkwood Avenue. However, there have been no crashes in the last five years that would be considered correctable by the installation of a traffic signal. Staff noted some trees and bushes that need to be trimmed to improve sight distance, and will meet with Landscape Management to schedule pruning to improve sight lines at this location.

As part of the BLE project, a traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of Brevard Street and Parkwood Avenue, a distance of about 400 feet from E. 18th Street, as denoted on the attached vicinity map. The vicinity map also denotes an existing traffic signal at Parkwood Avenue and N. Davidson Street. The new traffic signal will provide access to the new light rail station on Brevard Street and will help to create more frequent gaps for drivers turning left from E. 18th Street. The new traffic signal is planned to be installed in spring 2015.



Figure one vicinity
FUR.pdf

Belmont Monuments and Signage for Optimist Park

Staff Resources: Leslie Bing, E&PM, 704-336-7277, lbing@charlottenc.gov

Curt White, NBS, 704-336-2265, jcwhite@charlottenc.gov

Ms. Simuel’s second concern is the Belmont Monuments located at N. Davidson Street and Parkwood Avenue. Ms. Simuel said she feels the Optimist Park neighborhood is not getting the recognition it deserves, and that the Belmont monuments are located in Optimist Park according to the Optimist Park Area Plan.

The monuments were erected as part of the Belmont Revitalization Plan, adopted by City Council on May 27, 2003. As part of the plan, several infrastructure projects were implemented to establish a graphic and visual identity to both motorists and pedestrians and provide a safe pedestrian-friendly environment. The improvements included construction of concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk, brick pavers, wheelchair ramps, pedestrian signals, crosswalks and brick entry monuments. There were two Optimist Park representatives serving in the Belmont Revitalization Plan Stakeholders Work Group.

Neighborhood and Business Services’ Curt White has worked with the Optimist Park Neighborhood over the past year to help them get established as an organization so they would be eligible to utilize a Neighborhood Matching Grant to pay for their neighborhood identification signs. They elected officers, established bylaws and a bank account, and are currently looking for a site location for the new Optimist Park neighborhood identification signs.

October 27, 2014 – Council Business Meeting

Age of Multi-Family Rehabilitation Units

Staff Resource: Emily Cantrell, NBS, 704-432-2076, ecantrell@charlottenc.gov

During the Dinner Briefing on the Community Development Block Grant Housing Support Recommendations, Council member Fallon requested the age of the multi-family rehabilitation units at Savanna Woods, Heritage Park, and Thomasboro/Hovis.

The ages of the multi-family rehabilitation units specified are as follows:

| <u>Rehab Developments</u> | <u>Savanna Woods</u> | <u>Heritage Park</u> | <u>Thomasboro/Hovis</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Year Built | 1982 | 1981 | 1971 |
| Age of Property | 32 | 33 | 43 |

