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To start with, we always need more members. The cost for a year's membership is just \$25. You can sign up on the website or get information about memberships by calling the brand-new and first-ever ECWA office (located right over on Broad Street across from NCSSM, in space generously donated by former Watts-Hillandale resident Mike Shifflett) at 698-8161.

By joining you can help ECWA out a bit financially and get yourself informed about all of ECWA's activities. Some of those activities are just for fun—nature hikes, for example, or the Fall Festival. Some of them involve a few hours of hard work—like trailbuilding, or delivering newsletters. Some of them involve helping with a project, or even taking on a project of your own (does anybody want to help keep that website up-to-date, or maintain our kiosk at the end of the West Ellerbe Creek Trail?).

Whatever your special abilities and level of interest, we'd love to have you pitch in, and we're sure we can find a place for you (for example, new neighborhood resident Carl Stearns, who came to Durham to work for the City on mapping, is now hard at work on making ECWA a great new map of the watershed; and earlier this year we had a crew of NCSSM students out pulling invasive wisteria and other exotics from along the trail).

In order to accomplish its mission of stream restoration and land preservation, ECWA needs you. Please think about how you might be able to participate. Whether that's in large ways or small ones, your help will certainly pay off. And we guarantee it will be greatly appreciated, in an organization that works hard to maintain a lively and enthusiastic volunteer spirit.

NCSSM Negotiations Go Forth

BY STEVE COHN AND NED KENNINGTON

Events related to the stadium being built at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics are unfolding so quickly that most of the developments reported here will probably be ancient history by the time you read this. Even if that is true, it is worth describing those events so as to understand the history accurately. (You might be able to find more current information at the new neighborhood association web site at www.whhna.org through the "soccer stadium" link under "News" on the home page.)

After NCSSM had refused for a year to discuss neighbors' concerns with the stadium because it was so far in the future as to not be worth discussing, the NCSSM Foundation suddenly announced on March 10 that it was providing \$228,000 to fund construction of Phase I of the stadium. On the same day, the school announced that it planned to begin construction in April. (The school has explained that it is absolutely essential to have a soccer field ready for play in the fall, because they want to join a new athletic conference that requires a lighted soccer field.)

They plan to construct the stadium in three phases. Phase I would consist of grading for the entire stadium, construction of a soccer field and installation of an irrigation system and conduit for lighting wiring, etc. Phase II would construct a track.

Phase III would build bleachers, a storage bin for athletic equipment, etc.

There has been considerable media coverage of the issue. You might have seen columns on the stadium by neighbors and the president of the school in the newspaper. The neighborhood association has reiterated its opposition to a lighted stadium in a letter to the neighborhood listserv signed by President Gus Beck and Chairman of the NCSSM Liaison Committee, Steve Cohn. A flyer signed by Mr. Beck encouraging residents to sign a petition opposing lights and sound on the stadium is being distributed to the neighborhood.

The Joint City County Planning Commission, composed of select members of the Durham City Council and the Durham County Commission, has approved a letter strongly urging the school to negotiate in good faith with the neighborhood association for however long it takes to reach a compromise, win-win solution that meet the needs of the school, the neighbors and Durham as a whole.

On April 27, NCSSM President Boarman met with about 20 neighbors to describe the lighting plan for the stadium. (He explained that they did not have any other plans for the stadium, but that they would show us those plans as soon as they received them, which was expected to be during the week of May 1.)

Boarman explained that the plan called for using their vendor's lighting system that produced the smallest amount of light spilling over onto adjacent properties. When neighbors explained that they had found that previous advanced systems from this vendor produced obnoxious amounts of glare, Boarman agreed to identify within a week or so a nearby installation of this system, so that neighbors could go to see for themselves whether the lights were tolerable.

Neighbors stated that they would be delighted to find a lighting system that meets the needs of the school and at the same time does not destroy the quality of life of the neighborhood. They noted that the neighborhood association did agree to a lighting system in advance of construction of NCSSM's new tennis courts.

Boarman emphasized that the school would have the capability to turn on only those lights shining away from the neighborhood or lights shining both ways, depending on the school's needs. When asked how often the lights would be used, Boarman basically said that they would not use the lights very often, but he could not make any commitments about how often.

Boarman would not agree to delay construction to allow time to negotiate a compromise that met the needs of both the school and neighbors, as the city and county officials had called for. He said that the school would begin construction in May or June. Beginning construction before the design problems are solved will close off possible solutions to the problems the stadium poses. High intensity lighting is only one of the concerns that neighbors have--Lighting is merely the concern that has been most difficult to address in the past. NCSSM continues to make conflicting statements about whether they intend to

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