

Demanding to be Heard



Submitted Photo

Fleming El-Amin, the Mid-Atlantic regional coordinator for American Coalition for Good Government (ACGG) and a member of the Forsyth County Board of Elections, joined Emmanuel Baptist Church Pastor Dr. John Mendez and other Winston-Salem residents in Raleigh for the June 23 Moral Monday demonstration. More than 2,500 people from across the state participated in the event, part of a movement "to challenge the extremist agenda corrupting our state legislature," according to the N.C. NAACP, which held the first Moral Monday protest on April 29, 2013.

Photos by Todd Luck

Shannon Brooks speaks as Michelle Spears stands beside her.



Teams

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told the community teams. It includes bi-monthly meetings that will be held to allow teams to network and learn about resources and opportunities. At last week's meeting, for instance, Dara Silver, grant director for the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, talked about a small grant program offered by the Arts Council for non-arts groups that want to infuse the arts into their communities.

Community teams shared stories with one another and the results of their grant-funded projects. Many of the community teams consisted of neighborhood associations from communities like Neal Place, Cityview, Easton and Dreamland Park, Konnoak Hills and Piedmont Park that used grants for things like youth activities and starting community gardens.

Kenneth Holly of the Southeast Community Association said the grant the organization received helped it launch a successful youth program, which teaches things like entrepreneurship.

"In order for us to make it, we have to be a community and help one another," he said.

There are other kinds of community teams. Sandra Sherrill-Oliver started her non-profit, Hosanna House of Transition, in her own house in 1999, and it has grown into a multi-unit complex for the homeless. As she helped people by giving them shelter, she said she saw little change in the behavior that led them there in the first place.

The NBN grant she received paid for a trip to the Delancey Street Foundation in San Francisco, which houses and trains ex-offenders, former addicts and others in need by putting them to work at its restaurant, theater and other business ventures. The Delancey Street Foundation has graduated more than 18,000 people since 1971.

"I appreciate the opportunity to go out to see someone really do what my heart is telling me I could do," Sherrill-Oliver said.

She wants to re-create the Delancey Street model here by starting with a laundry mat and refreshment center at the corner of East 25th and Liberty streets. She will provide training and employment opportunities at the establishment,



Beryl Mankins speaks to the group.



Kenneth Holly shares his experiences.



Borders

which she plans to open in September. Though housing will no longer be the focus of Hosanna House, Sherrill-Oliver said she will still provide transitional housing if those participating in her new venture need it.

Alvin Borders started the nonprofit "The How Is Your Heart Project" after seeing heart disease take too many, too soon.

"We got tired of seeing minorities dying at 45 or 55 years old," he said.

The Heart Project's grant was used to buy the insurance required in order for the organization to be a food vendor at events like the Dixie Classic Fair and Winston-Salem Dash games; vending profits are funneled back into the organization. The Heart Project has already staged a health-theme play, which Borders wrote, and conducted heart-health walks. Plans are underway to expend educational services, Border said.

Shannon Brooks and Michelle Spears talked about how their Women's and Girls' Project used its grant to launch programs

that teach self-esteem, entrepreneurship, finances and healthy living to girls who live in La Deara Crest and the Cleveland Avenue Homes communities. Before they wrapped up their presentation, they had received several invitations from neighborhood association members to bring the Women's and Girls' Project into their communities.

"We are out here trying to make a difference with these little girls and these young women," Brooks said.

Jonathan's Legacy: Connections of Hope used its grant to replenish the book shelves at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center with gently-used books that focus on relevant subjects for students, said Executive Director Beryl Mankins.

"If you want a challenge, it's finding gently read books that are STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math)-focused ...," said Mankins, whose group will be giving away books to children during a book club event at the community center later this summer.

The other community teams in attendance were Team B.A.M. (Becoming A Man), which mentors young men; Justice Marathon Outreach Ministry, which supports inmates' children; the Mami Watta Cultural Arts Collective, which uses African drumming and dancing for outreach; the educational advocacy group Connecting

Communities for Education; and NBN-Salem StoryCorps, which records and preserves local stories, including those of NBN's community teams.

Learn more about NBN by calling 336-602-2519.

W-S resident member of new GOP Black Advisory Board

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Republican National Committee and the Republican Party of North Carolina launched the North Carolina Black Advisory Board on June 19.

Members of the board, who hail from cities and towns across the state, will advise the RNC on efforts to make inroads into the black community. Republicans have had a difficult time winning over black voters. In 2012, 93 percent of African American voters cast ballots for President Barack Obama.

"We are fortunate to have this accomplished group of leaders to help guide our engagement efforts in North Carolina. Their knowledge and roots in black communities across the state will be invaluable as we share our message of empowerment and expanding access to the American Dream," said RNC Chairman Reince Priebus. "Our engagement staff and advisory board add immense value to the work the Republican Party hopes to accomplish."

The Board includes Winston-Salem's Simpson "Skip" Brown, a former banking executive who now works for Wake Forest University Athletics. Brown is a former WFU basketball standout and onetime NBA player. He is joined on the Board by Miriam Pinnix-Aikens and Norris James Aikens of Reidsville; Kevin Daniels of Raleigh; Dr. Ada Fisher of Salisbury; Clarence Edward Henderson of High Point; Robert Tony McGhee of Wilmington; Derek L. Partee of



Skip Brown



Pete

Huntersville; Felice Pete of Raleigh; Archie Leon Threatt of Matthews; and Tanzy Barrow Wallace of Shelby.

"I look forward to the advice and counsel our advisory board members will provide as we continue our unprecedented engagement effort with black voters across North Carolina," said Earl Phillip, the state's GOP director for Minority Engagement.

Pete, who during a speech in Winston-Salem in March 2013 described President Obama as, "a guy who kind of has no religion, likes to kill babies and really is not for women at all," said the Board will be a boon for the part.

"The advisory board is a great opportunity for the GOP to add credibility, depth, and experience to its effort to expand the party by engaging black voters," she said.

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NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS JULY 22 & 24 IN WINSTON-SALEM FOR THE PROPOSED U.S. 421 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION, REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NUMBERS 178, 278, 286, 288, 291, 293, 305, 312, 313, 336 AND VARIOUS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS FROM WEST OF FOURTH STREET TO EAST OF CHURCH STREET

TIP Project No. U-2827B

Also known as Business 40 Improvement Project

The N.C. Department of Transportation will hold two public hearings in July regarding a proposed project for pavement rehabilitation of travel lanes, reconstruction of shoulders and ramps, replacement of ten (10) bridges (Bridge Numbers 178, 278, 286, 288, 291, 293, 305, 312, 313, 336), and various safety improvement on US 421/I-40 Business (commonly referred to as Business 40 by residents of Winston-Salem) between west of Fourth Street and east of Church Street.

The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow, operations and safety on U.S. 421/I-40 Business between west of Fourth Street and east of Church Street. Additional right-of-way acquisition and the relocation of homes and businesses will be required for this project.

The hearings are scheduled at the following times and places:

- Tuesday, July 22:**
Milton Rhodes Art Center,
251 N. Spruce Street,
Winston-Salem
Pre-Hearing Open House:
4 - 6:30 p.m.
Formal Presentation: 7 p.m.
- Thursday, July 24:**
Miller Recreational Center,
400 Leisure Lane,
Winston-Salem
Pre-Hearing Open House:
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Formal Presentation: 7:30 p.m.

NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and receive comments regarding the project during the open-house portion of the hearings. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the open-house hours. The same information and maps will be available at all meetings. The public is urged to share their ideas, thoughts and suggestions with department staff. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will be provided and is encouraged. Comments regarding the project and the Environmental Assessment (EA) document will be accepted through August 24, 2014.

The formal presentations will include an update of recent project activities and studies, an explanation of the location and design of the alternatives, information about the state-federal relationship, the required right of way and relocation requirements and future activities and procedures that will be part of the project. The presentation and comments will be recorded, and a transcript will be prepared.

Hearing Maps displaying the location and design of the project and a copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) are available for public review at the: NCDOT Division Engineer's Office, located at 375 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem Winston-Salem UA MPO - Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Bldg. - Suite 307, located at 100 East First St. The maps are also available online at: <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings/>.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is also available for public review at the: Forsyth County Public Library - Central Library - North Carolina Reading Room, located at 660 West Fifth St. Winston-Salem State University - C.G. O'Kelly Library - Main Circulation Desk, located at 601 South Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

Additional information on the Business 40 project, the Hearing Maps and the Environmental Assessment (EA), is also available online at: www.business40nc.com

For additional information, contact Jamille Robbins, NCDOT-Human Environment Section at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, by phone at (919) 707-6085 or by email: publicinvolvement1@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in these meetings. Anyone requiring special services should contact Robbins as early as possible, so that arrangements can be made. For persons who speak Spanish and do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, interpretive services will be available at the meeting upon request. For more information, please call 1-800-481-6494 prior to the meeting.

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