

DRAFT

Minutes of Meeting of the Greensboro Noise Ordinance Committee December 1, 2014

Present: Megan Rose, Erwin Salls, Jr., Lenny Schiavone, Susan Wood, 'Cilla Bonney-Smith, Tom Anastasio, Anne Harbison, Peter Romans, June Pichel Cook (representing the Hardwick Gazette).

The meeting was opened at 4:13 p.m. by Susan Wood acting as Chair until Peter Romans arrived. She was unanimously chosen to act as Chair.

Minutes of the November 25th meeting approved unanimously as written.

Susan noted that time of day as well as length of time should be important factors in determining if a noise is offensive. For example, noise during the day might not be as bad as the same noise at night. Lenny made the point that we would have to define noise terms for daytime – what would constitute excessive noise during the day?

'Cilla asked if the Committee likes the idea of a “waiver” process. Susan said she very much likes it. No one else commented.

Susan noted that she has heard four major complaint types:

- a) Dogs barking continuously.
- b) Unauthorized fireworks around the lake.
- c) Amplified music from Lakeview Inn.
- d) Excessively loud lake parties.

Junior Salls noted that fireworks need not be included in a noise ordinance because there is already an ordinance requiring a permit from the Fire Department and from the Police Department. Fireworks without such permits are already illegal. The Committee generally questioned how renters would know that fireworks need a permit and concluded that all renters should get a copy of relevant ordinances upon checkin.

Anne stated that any ordinance we come up with must be simple and nice if it is to gain support at Town Meeting.

The sample ordinance that Lenny put forward at the last meeting was discussed. It was noted that the central part of the ordinance is quite short and simple, but the ordinance as a whole is made much longer by the “exemptions” section. Megan Rose asked what the purpose of the exemptions is – in particular, should one conclude that an activity not listed under exemptions is therefore non-exempt? No one produced a plain answer to this question.

Susan proposed that two things should be brought to Town Meeting when a vote is to be taken on whether Greensboro should have a noise ordinance or not:

- a) a concise statement of what the ordinance is trying to do. This might be a “bullet” list that could be discussed by a Committee spokesperson. It should be easy to read and understand.
- b) a proposed ordinance.

Toward this end, each Committee member will send his/her comments and suggestions on Lenny's sample ordinance to the Secretary who will collate them for discussion at the next meeting.

Susan suggested that the noise issues boil down to:

- a) long, loud parties at night
- b) fireworks
- c) amplified music at Lakeview Inn.

Megan suggested the list should be:

- a) amplified music
- b) late night parties
- c) in general, the duration and intensity of the noise.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 pm in the Collier Room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm

Respectfully submitted: Thomas Anastasio, Committee Secretary