Oral History Interview

Interview with Reverend Marvin Cuffee

Interviewed on Friday May 30, 2010

Interviewed by Erica Weatherford

Assisted by Zach Usher

Interviewed for the Revolution Park Oral History Project

Part I

Time count in minutes Description of interview content

0.0 Beginning of interview. Introduction. What are your fondest memories of living in Revolution Park? Over coming crime, community involvement.

5.0 Cuffee recalls a murder and crime. Prostitution near West Blvd. Wayne’s Grocery store. Motivations for moving to the area. “The Grape Vine,” as a nickname for the neighborhood.

10.0 Neighborhood life, relationship with neighbors. Children, the community center, athletics. The step team and a parade.

15.0 More community events. Cuffee speaks of a “Time to Give Thanks” and other celebrations. Revolution Park neighborhood sponsored events.

20.0 Change over time in the recreational facilities. Socializing in the neighborhood, pool parties. The community center, “Weed and Seed” program. “Cruising” in the neighborhood. The city council.

25.0 Police involvement with helping the efforts to stop drugs and “cruisers.” The Department of Justice and more about the “Weed and Seed” program. A business retention plan.

30.0 Businesses in the area. Cuffee details the business retention plan. Wayne’s Grocery Store. The Golden Wok. Shopping in the area.

35.0 The golf course, the people who played there. Stories about the golf course being haunted, and a man who camped out in the woods near the golf course.

40.0 Collecting golf balls, the selling of golf balls. More about the individual who camped out at the golf course. Cuffee begins to detail the pool.

45.0 The community center, problems at the pool. The Mecklenberg County Aquatic Citizens’ Advisory Board. The demolishing of the center.

50.0 Cuffee continues describing the poor quality of the pool and problems with attendance there. The deteriorating equipment, Cuffee compares to those in prisons.

Part II

Time count in minutes Description of interview content

0.0 - 3.0 Introduction to Part II. Cuffee describes what the community lost when the pool demolished. Community identity. Feelings about he closing of the pool.

Part III

0.0-3.0 Mt. Zion and Greater Galilee church. Conclusion. Reflective questions about the changes in the neighborhood and what makes it unique.