Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

February 15, 2021
Minutes
[Virtual Meeting via Google Meet]
WTNA website address: www.wagenerterrace.org

Meeting was called to order @ 7:02 by President Amanda Gurski. She asked any first time or non-resident guests to identify themselves. Alexandra Kezer, John Harris, Patrick Orefice, and Thetyka Robinson, Interim Executive Director of Enough Pie, were recognized. Katie and Chris Monoc of 108 St. Margaret St. identified themselves as former members who wish to be reinstated. Patrick Oresfice, architect, identified himself as representing the Fabio Carvalho family of 33 Hester Street who are seeking support for a zoning exception. Ruth Barrow, a member in years past, identified herself as a soon to be resident of 353 Grove.

REPORTS

Minutes:
The minutes of the January 18, 2021 meeting, having been posted in draft form on the WTNA website for the last month, were approved as posted. The motion was made by Petar Lemajic, seconded by Susan Cale, and passed unanimously.

Financials:
President Amanda Gurski, responding for Treasurer Gail Thomas, reported a checking account balance of $11,950.08 and a savings account balance of $22,505.11. President Gurski noted for guests that the large totals primarily represent funds held in reserve from 2020-21 to fund a new oyster roast event in January 2022. The oyster roast of January 2021 was cancelled due to the pandemic.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Enough Pie Update on Vivian Moultrie Park**. Thetyka Robinson, Interim Executive Director of Enough Pie, gave a report on the opening of the butterfly garden, playground equipment and the painting of pylons (columns under I-26 on the peninsula) by artists. She asked the members to notify local or regional artists that there were 17 pylons left to be painted using a horticultural/ botanical theme. She noted that there would eventually be a ribbon-cutting event scheduled with the Mayor and other officials when the project is finished.
2. **Hampton Park Renaming Request.** President Gurski called on Member Hector Qirko to explain his request of the membership, which had been briefly discussed at the January 2021 meeting, but was postponed because of limited discussion time. Mr. Qirko, using a slide of a draft letter to the City Council, discussed the reasons that the use of General Wade Hampton's name for Hampton Park was offensive and needed to be changed. A discussion ensued as to the timing and merits of the change. Vice President Lemajic spoke in support of the request to the City Council, noting that it was long overdue and it was a good time to pursue the renaming after the removal of the Calhoun statue downtown. Tyler Heuter, Jarett Nicholson, Katie Monoc, and others spoke in favor. Alex Kezer, Mike Turner and others noted that there were positive historical events associated with the park, such as the "First Memorial Day" and the Pan-American Exhibition. It was noted that these events could be offered as inspiration for a new name to be chosen by a council Committee. Gail Thomas raised the issue as to the SC Heritage Act applicability to the Hampton Park renaming. If applicable, a renaming would require the approval of the SC General Assembly and Senate. Councilman Sakran identified the Council Committee that should receive the renaming request as a starting point. A motion was made Jarett Nicholson and seconded by Mike Turner to authorize President Gurski to sign a letter along the lines of Mr. Qirko's previous draft, including positive historical details as appropriate as inspiration for a new name. The motion passed unanimously with over 25 members in attendance, insuring a quorum of current membership.

3. **Support for Owners of 33 Hester Street seeking BZA variance.** Mr. Patrick Oresice was introduced by President Gurski to make the presentation on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Fabio Carvalho about the need for a zoning variance at 33 Hester Street. Mr. Oresice presented a plat of the corner lot at 33 Hester Street, showing the proposed expansion of the downstairs master bedroom. The addition would necessitate a non-conforming setback. After a discussion about the support of neighbors for this addition, member Jeff Montgomery made a motion to approve the request for WTNA support. The motion was seconded by Gail Thomas and passed unanimously.

4. **Report of City Council, Police, or Citadel Representatives.** President Gurski introduced **Lt. Dasher of the Charleston Police Department and Commander of Zone One**, including Wagener Terrace. Lt. Dasher addressed a car crash incident on St. Margaret Street the previous Saturday. The vehicle traveling in the 100 block of St. Margaret street struck a parked vehicle with multiple witnesses, and drove away to turn toward Hampton Park on Tenth Street, where the vehicle struck a sign on a rolling stop. Police officers performed a preliminary investigation in the two locations, EMS was involved because the driver was experiencing a medical episode (seizure). There was prolonged and terse communication of WTNA residents with the officer on St. Margaret Street, who declined to take eyewitness statements of the WTNA residents. Lt. Dasher explained the constraints on the police in charging the driver and issuing a citation to the driver once a medical issue was declared by the EMS personnel. Other complicating factors were addressed by Lt. Dasher, and he assured members that the interpersonal communications of the officers were also addressed by him. He reported that he had watched hours of the body cam video, and he addressed professional personnel issues with the officers involved. Lt. Dasher answered many questions of Ruth Barrow, Jarett Nicholson, Stephani Schwerdt, Katie Monoc, and others.

President Gurski commented that WTNA residents had observed the ticketing of speeders in Hampton Park and were appreciative of that effort. Councilman **Jason Sakran** was recognized by President Gurski for comments. The Councilman said that he would check on the "No Trucks" signs to be reinstalled on Mary Murray Blvd. It was his understanding that the installation was imminent.

The President asked if there was any new business from the members. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn. Petar Lemajic made the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next WTNA Meeting is **March 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm**. An email announcement and phone call will be made regarding format of the meeting.

Handy Contacts:

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www.wagenerterrace.org
Police Dispatch (non-emergency) 843-743-7200
Lowndes Grove MOD 843-708-4314
Councilman Gregorie 843-327-7900 (Mona Lisa)
Councilman Gregorie's personal # 843-819-6619
City of Charleston Citizen Services Desk
843-724-7311

Tree Program: Anna McAllister
843-814-5553 or annamcallister@aol.com
www.crimeweb.net
Code/Livability 843-805-3226
Councilman Sakran (District 3) 843-819-0507

BOD: Amanda Gurski, Petar Lemajic, Mike Turner, Gail Thomas, Jeanie Knowlton, Susan Cale, Nancy Wilson and Anna Turner

Completed: February 17, 2021