Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

March 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. None were identified.

REPORTS

Minutes:
The minutes of the February 15, 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 Nancy Wilson, and passed unanimously.

Financials:
President Amanda Gurski, responding for Treasurer Gail Thomas, reported a checking account balance of $11,970.08 and a savings account balance of $22,505.32. Treasurer Gail Thomas joined the meeting, listed recent expenditures, and noted that there were 44 paid members for 2020-21. President Gurski urged members who may have forgotten to pay because we have been meeting virtually since April 2020, to please mail or hand-deliver their $10 membership fee to Gail Thomas at 354 Grove Street and include name, e-mail address, and street address in the envelope. Since we are near the end of the 2020-21 membership year, the President noted that they could include payment for the 2021-22 year as well. President Gurski reported hearing from the City Forestry Department as to the availability of four canopy trees that could be planted free of charge by the City if the conditions are favorable regarding space available for future growth of the trees. She urged interested members to contact her by email.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Nominating Committee Information.** President Gurski reported that Susan Cale had volunteered at a recent Board of Directors Meeting to chair the Nominating Committee for the upcoming officer elections. However, she was unable to attend this meeting because of a family emergency. President Gurski noted that that Susan would be looking for members to join the nominating committee who were not interested in becoming an officer themselves. The nominating Committee will present a slate of qualified members at the May meeting. Also persons can be nominated from the floor at the May meeting. Voting will take place at the June meeting. Only members in good standing may vote, so she urged members to pay their dues.
2. **Interested Members in WTNA Officer Roles.** President Gurski announced that she would not be serving another term as President and that Mike Turner would also be stepping down as Secretary. Petar Lemajic had not yet committed himself regarding serving another term or in which office he might be interested. Gail Thomas indicated that she would be amenable to serving another term as Treasurer if elected. President Gurski encouraged persons who might be interested in a WTNA office to contact Susan Cale regarding their interest. inspiration for a new name. The motion passed unanimously with over 25 members in attendance, insuring a quorum of current membership.
3. **Technology/ Social Media Chair(s).** President Gurski noted that the last year has made it evident that we need some members to take on roles in Technology (i.e., organizing Google Meet, Invitations to meetings, Calling Post), in monitoring Facebook posts, and responding to e-mail requests for current information from WTNA. Jarett Nicholson volunteered to take on the technology support for Google Meet and Calling Post for the next year with assistance from Petar Lemajic. Nancy Wilson volunteered to continue responding to e-mails for the WTNA.
4. **Traffic and Transportation (City of Charleston).** President Gurski called on Councilman Jason Sakran to introduce City officials attending the meeting to respond to questions regarding traffic concerns in Wagener Terrace. Mr. Robert Somerville, Deputy Director, and Mr. Keith Benjamin, Director, Traffic and Transportation

Division, City of Charleston, were introduced and made introductory remarks. Mr. Benjamin noted that Charleston rated high in a recent poll regarding lack of bike safety in the City. Mr. Sakran called for questions or concerns. Mr. Tyler Heuter of Mt. Pleasant Street asked if there were pre-formatted forms for collecting neighborhood signatures to support requests for traffic calming measures or "speed bumps." He reviewed his frustrations with the petition process, noting that residents who did not have a street address on the street, would not count in meeting the 75% level, even if their property was adjacent to the street in question. Mr. Somerville noted that they were constrained by the requirements of the ordinance. Mr. Benjamin also noted that traffic calming measures were often expensive, and the State-owned roads would generally need the City to pick up the costs before the work could be done. Ruth Barrow suggested that many times the intersections with only two stop signs instead of four signs encouraged speeding in the straight-a-ways. Mr. Benjamin responded that 4-way stops could not be installed unless there was near parity in the traffic from both directions. Intersections that were particularly concerning were: Peachtree & Ashley; Rutledge & Simmons. President Gurski reported that the Rutledge/ Simmons had a flashing light, but cars were not stopping for pedestrian crossings. Nancy Wilson, a resident of Rutledge Avenue reported that the section of Rutledge between Cypress and Maple was the scene of a lot of car crashes. There was evidently a problem with parked cars on either side causing drivers to misjudge and crash into parked cars. A discussion of pedestrian/ bike injuries took place and it was noted that the Charleston Police Department keeps records of the location of injuries. Mr. Benjamin noted that the CPD and Traffic Division worked closely together to identify problem areas. Mike Turner suggest that some of the lower cost "traffic calming" solutions might help with speeding, such as portable traffic speed signs showing drivers their oncoming speed. Many drivers, he noted, are not cognizant of their actual speed. Councilman Sakran said that he would try to include in his periodic e-mail newsletter the upcoming meetings where monetary requirements for traffic calming measures will be discussed. Citizens attending such meetings help with securing funding. Councilman Sakran asked whether closing Mary Murray Drive around Hampton Park in the afternoon several days a week during the Daylight Saving Time calendar was supported by those present. There was general assent to the question. Mr. Benjamin reported that the signs prohibiting trucks from using Mary Murray Drive were in place now at the entrances to the oval, but that two of the signs needed to be relocated to give the truck drivers earlier warning before proceeding around the park.

5. **Announcements:** President Gurski announced that the Yard of the Month for Wagener Terrace in March was 10 Clemson Street, home of Beverly Burris and Steven Kropski. She also reported that longtime Sunshine Committee Chair, Sis Marshall, and her husband. Hal, were experiencing difficult health issues. She reported that the WTNA had sent flowers, but also reminded members that Sis would always ask members to send cards and remember ailing members in their prayers.

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, Gail Thomas seconded, and it passed unanimously.

The next WTNA Meeting will be **April 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm**. An email announcement and phone call will be made regarding format of the meeting.

Handy Contacts:

WTNACharleston@gmail.com
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: March 17, 2021