Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

September 20, 2021

Minutes

[Virtual Meeting via Google Meet]

WTNA website address: www.wagenerterrace.org

The September meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Petar Lemajic. He asked for any new meeting attendees to feel free to introduce themselves. Liz Bronneberg introduced herself and Tim Jarosch as new WTNA members. They had been coming to Charleston as tourists for over 30 years and decided to retire here. They have both lived here for over a year and love the neighborhood and are excited to join the neighborhood association. They live on Sunnyside, at the far north end of the neighborhood. President Lemajic welcomed them and offered them the opportunity to get involved in the WTNA further by participating in one of our sub-committees.

MINUTES: The previous month's minutes are posted on the website. President Lemajic again showed via screen share how to access the minutes on the website. Amanda Gurski moved that the minutes from the August 2021 meeting be approved as posted on the website. Jarrett seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

FINANCIALS: Treasurer Gail Thomas was not present at the meeting, so President Lemajic gave an accounting of the financials. We have $8,694.57 in Checking and $22,506.43 in Savings. In August, we deposited $50 in membership fees, and so far in September we have deposited $20 in membership fees. These fees reflect that 7 more members have paid dues since last month's meeting.

PRESENTATION: President Lemajic played us a recording from a previous Calling Post by Hal Marshall. It was recorded right after an oyster roast in November 2018. After we listened to the recording, President Lemajic honored Mr. Marshall by reminding us how he always gave to the neighborhood and said that Hal and Sis Marshall are missed.

POLICE: The floor was offered to Lieutenant Dasher who was present to give an update. He said Hampton Park has been on their radar lately. The police are working with all of the various city resources to try to alleviate the homelessness issues. He said there was a young lady who filed a report last week after an indecent exposure, and they are working on that. They are trying to clean up the area and get more lighting. They are also continuing to address speeding. The police speed trailer is down, and they are working on getting a part fixed, so meanwhile they are doing patrols.

President Lemajic requested additional context on what happened with the lady who witnessed the exposure. Lt. Dasher said she was walking during the day and was approached by a man on a bike who made inappropriate comments and then exposed himself to her. It is still unclear whether this man was a homeless person or someone out for exercise. He noted that this is a grave concern of theirs, and they are trying to patrol the area from 4pm until dark, which is when the park is busiest. He encourages us to report anything we see out of the ordinary, including criminal issues, livability issues, parks issues, etc.

He reminded us that the Bridge Run is happening this weekend, so we need to be aware that from 4am - 3pm Saturday, there will be streets blocked off, including parts of Meeting St. and King St.. Packet pickup is in North Charleston, and there is no kids race in Hampton Park this year, so there will not be quite as much immediate impact to our neighborhood. Halloween is also coming up. The police have a plan in place, but if we have areas of concern, we should email him so that he can add it to his plan.

Councilman Sakran then asked for clarification about the patrol officers seen on bikes lately. Lt. Dasher said that there is a bike training class right now to get officers back on bikes. Once the bikes are equipped, and the classes are completed, then police will be back out on bike patrol.

NEW BUSINESS / LOCAL ISSUES

1. Anna Lee Turner asked for an update about the status of Longborough due to the “Private Property. No Trespassing” sign that remains. Multiple people confirmed that everyone just ignores the sign. President Lemajic said that he and Jarrett Nicholson will reach out to Councilman Dudley Gregorie for an update, as he has been very involved in the negotiations.

2. Hector Qirko asked if there has been any movement on changing the name of Hampton Park. Councilman Sakran said that they cannot get Council to approve the work of the Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation, much less get them to agree to change the name of the park. He said work is going to continue though. He and Councilman Gregorie co-chaired the Special Commission. Over the course of the year, they came up with 125 recommendations, and some of those recommendations were within the History sub-committee, including renaming streets and monuments. Renaming Hampton Park is catalogued. He said that in this extensive report, about 3 items got people upset, one of which was the term ‘reparations.’ These reparations were never defined as financial. The other inflammatory item was critical race theory. He said that many people do not realize that the City Council is not the school district, so they do not have any way to implement something like critical race theory. There was also a 1619 work reference which upset people. He said of 125 recommendations, 3-4 were controversial. It is an election year for some council members, and they are trying not to ruffle feathers. Also, some people have weaponized these terms. He said they are trying to make equal access and get inclusion, and they will continue to find ways to address it. He does think there is a good chance at making the Commission permanent, and he suggests anyone who feels strongly to come to a City Council meeting and express support. He

said the people involved in the Commission volunteered their time, no one was radical, and everyone was thoughtful with suggestions.

3. In a further City Council update, Councilman Sakran said the mask mandate is going to come back for a 2nd and 3rd reading. This mandate would require masks back in restaurants and indoor spaces. He said this mandate is good news for people who support masks. He spent time recently in the ER at Roper St. Francis, and he was shocked at the number of people in the emergency room and at the medical providers' level of stress. He said some people might be upset about it, but it was an easy vote for him. Also, tomorrow he will be meeting with staff and preservation groups to discuss BAR revisions and the possibility of rewriting an ordinance. He has been working on it for the better part of a year trying to get fellow Council members on board. He suggests reaching out if you have questions or comments about BAR small. Any feedback is helpful. James Bishop spoke up and said that he works with the BAR on a daily basis, and he says it never gets any easier - it only gets more and more difficult.

COMMITTEES

1.Yard of the Month - Amanda Gurski informed us that this month's YOM winner is 891 Rutledge Avenue. The owner is Anne Ladson Stafford. Congrats to Anne!

2. Sunshine: We do not have a current committee, but President Lemajic informed us that Linda Hancock on Gordon St. recently passed away.

3. No reports for the Environment or Zoning Committees.

4. Oyster Roast - Jarrett Nicholson, oyster roast committee chair, reminded us that the event is planned for January 9. As of now, we are still planning to have it, but there are a lot of unknowns about covid, masks, and congregating. Keeping that in mind, the Oyster Roast Committee is trying to remain flexible and be both optimistic and realistic. The first meeting of the committee happened last week. Sales/Ticketing will be handled by Mike Hilfer, Susan Cale is the Volunteer Coordinator, and the overall coordinator is VP Nicholson. There is an open position for handling Advertisement. They got a commitment from Lance and the First Class Band, and they also got a commitment from Jamie Westendorff to handle the food, including both oysters and other southern buffet food. They are going to try to get more oysters this year since we have run out in previous years. He said thanks to Marshall Walker for agreeing to sponsor the bar portion of the oyster roast. They are looking at having tickets go on sale December 7. Kelly Hobbs with Patrick Properties (PPHG) said she is happy to support advertising through PPHG and can help with online listings. Kelly also said she will work to lock down a safe guest count and then will help with a ticket price recommendation.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT - PERMITS AND UPCOMING ISSUES

President Lemajic received a letter from the Department of Traffic & Transportation about a request from Ms. Thomasina Cook at 44 St. Margaret St. for a parking restriction of the area

across from her driveway to allow for better turning radius into/out of her driveway. As a newer resident, Liz Bronneberg asked if this is a common problem, but we have not received similar requests recently. President Lemajic says he supports the request if she wants it. VP Nicholson commented that speed is very swift down St. Margaret St., and he can understand her desire for accommodations. Ms. Bronneberg moved to write a letter of support for Ms. Cook's request, and Amanda Gurski seconded. The motion passed with unanimous support of 15 eligible voters. President Lemajic will write and send a letter of support to the Dept. of Traffic and Transportation.

There were no New Concerns.

President Lemajic said that we will be meeting in person at a venue once the pandemic has calmed. Even if it is outside with masks, we will try to find a place.

VP Nicholson moved to close the meeting, James Bishop seconded. Unanimous vote to close the meeting. Meeting ended at 7:48 pm.

The next WTNA Meeting will be October 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Handy Contacts:

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www.wagenerterrace.org

Tree Program: Anna McAllister

843-814-5553 or annamcallister@aol.com

Police Dispatch (non-emergency) 843-743-7200

www.crimeweb.net

Lowndes Grove MOD 843-708-4314

Code/Livability 843-805-3226

Councilman Gregorie 843-327-7900 (Mona Lisa) 843-819-0507

Councilman Sakran (District 3)

Councilman Gregorie's personal # 843-819-6619

City of Charleston Citizen Services Desk 843-724-7311

BOD: Petar Lemajic, Jarrett Nicholson, Gail Thomas, Jeanie Knowlton, Tyler Hueter, Susan Cale, Nancy Wilson, and Anna Turner

Completed: September 24, 2021