

Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

March 20, 2023

Minutes

[Hybrid Meeting at 45 Moultrie St. and via Google Meet]

WTNA website address: www.wagenerterrace.org

The February meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President Petar Lemajic. Will Taylor introduced himself as a new attendee. He moved into a home on Dunneman Ave last summer.

MINUTES: The previous month's minutes are posted on the WTNA website. Liz Bronneberg moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting as posted on the website. Tim Jarosch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

FINANCIALS: Treasurer Thomas reported that we currently have \$8,556.91 in Checking and \$22,509.45 in Savings. Since last month, we donated \$250 to the Lowcountry Food Bank and \$250 to Florence Crittenton. Treasurer Thomas noted that Florence Crittenton has been put up for sale via auction because they could not afford to keep up with the needed renovations. The idea is that some of it will remain affordable housing.

CITY COUNCIL/POLICE/CITADEL: Councilman Gregorie and Sakran were not present, nor were any representatives from the Citadel. Lt. Shylah Murray was present as our new contact with the Charleston Police Department, replacing Lt. Dasher. President Lemajic recounted a personal interaction he recently had with a disturbed person who was following a neighbor. He interceded to allow the neighbor to get away, but the person pulled a weapon. There was also recently an armed mugging at the corner of Simons St. and Piedmont Ave. Lt. Murray then introduced herself. She has been with the CPD for 23 years and has worked on Team 1 and Team 4, with Narcotics/Vice, as a detective with Central Investigations, as a patrol supervisor, and as an administrative sergeant. She congratulated her officers on quickly apprehending the suspects from the mugging. They recovered 2 guns and got a confession. In the incident with President Lemajic, the suspect was found and detained but did not have a weapon on him at the time, so they were limited in what they could do.

She said that things are changing with the department. They are going back to beats, so we will be seeing beat officers more often. She said that email is the best way to reach her and that she can only help with about 25% of our problems, and the rest require the City to be looped in and members of other departments to assist. She said her team has stepped up traffic enforcement around Hampton Park, and there are now 2 beat officers who are radar-certified who are monitoring for speeding. They have gotten one complaint regarding homelessness in the Park, but they have not seen much, so we should let her know if there is a problem. She said that Wagener Terrace is a safe neighborhood but that communication is key to addressing any issues that come up. She referenced the I Live in Wagener Terrace facebook page as a place where people have shared information that is either not true or unsubstantiated, and she encouraged us to avoid spreading misinformation. There has been an uptick in

people checking car door handles, and she emphasized that people should not leave guns in their cars. President Lemajic also encouraged people to share their home video surveillance when available.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Rick Schwarz and Lynn Fuller were present to discuss the plans for their home at 35 Dunneman. Julie O'Connor with American Vernacular is their designer. The house is a 1-story craftsman bungalow, and their plan is to maintain that craftsman style but grow the size from 1023 square feet to 1803 sf and from 2 bedrooms to 3 bedrooms. They considered adding a second story, but they decided they wanted to maintain the existing house, so instead they are building a small addition at the back of the house and then adding an accessory structure that will contain the 3rd bedroom. There is already an accessory structure, but it is in such poor condition that they have already received approval to demolish it. They now need approval from the Board of Zoning Appeals for a special exception for construction of an accessory structure that extends non-conforming rear and west side setbacks, and they need a variance for an accessory building that exceeds the permitted eave height. All of the abutting neighbors have written letters of support, and one neighbor is very excited that the City has approved removal of a pecan tree that is in bad shape. The reason they want to build the accessory structure is to give them the space they need while maintaining the integrity of the existing house. It is a concrete block house, and they will also need to go before the BAR to get permission to remove and redo the stucco on the exterior of the house. There are also rotting windows, some of which will be repaired and some of which cannot be repaired and will therefore be replaced in kind. They will be removing non-historic balusters on the porch and adding traditional stairs in front. They will also be doing a metal roof, rather than an asphalt shingle. They will be adding 300 sf through the house addition, and then the accessory building will add an additional 500 sf. The accessory building will just be a bedroom, not an independent unit. Treasurer Thomas made a motion to provide a letter of support for their project. James Bishop seconded. All were in favor, and there was a meeting quorum. President Lemajic will write a letter of support and submit it to the BZA tonight.

2. Anthony Del Pardo from the Hampton Park Terrace Neighborhood Association was present to discuss an effort of theirs. He lives near the corner of Ashley Ave and Huger St., and he and other members of HPT have been distressed by the amount of speeding and the number of car accidents on the stretch of Ashley Ave. between Fishburne St. and Moultrie St. They are proposing that one of the northbound lanes of Ashley, between Fishburne and Hampton Park, be turned into a cycle track. They would scoot the parking over and put the cycle track on the other side of the parking. He said that the road currently feels safe for speeding because it is so wide, and studies have shown that speed is much more influenced by how safe people feel rather than by the speed limit. Therefore, removing a lane for cars would make the road more safe because people will naturally drive more slowly, and it will also offer a safe passageway for bicyclists. The goal is to increase safety for everyone. It is an SCDOT road, and they do not want a bike lane to end suddenly, which is why it would go to Hampton Park and attach to the bike lane there. They also plan to do a curb bump-out at the intersection of Ashley Ave and Congress St. Secretary Nancy Wilson moved to write a letter in support for establishing a cycle track on Ashley Ave. Donna Marie Patton seconded. The motion passed with unanimous support.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. President Lemajic said that representatives from the Magnolia development will be coming to the April meeting to present their plans.

2. The Union Pier survey that WTNA conducted via email had 26 respondents. There was a fairly even split between support, opposed, and undecided. Primary concerns were flooding and traffic. All of the concerns were passed on to Cm Sakran, and he will include them in his feedback on the project. There is a meeting on March 23 with the Planning Commission at 5pm at Main Library. Mr. Bishop said that during this process they are essentially setting a rule book. They are developing guidelines for use, density, etc, so that when they sell it to other developers, everyone will have to stay within the already-established guidelines.

COMMITTEES:

1. Yard of the Month: The March YOM winner is 83 Hester Street. The YOM Committee is proposing 81 St. Margaret St. as the April YOM winner.

2. Sunshine: John Campbell died, so Susan Cale sent a condolence card on our behalf to his sister.

3. Zoning: Mr. Bishop reported that there are 3 applications on the BZA agenda for tomorrow. We already discussed the requests by 35 Dunneman. 24 Gordon is requesting a horizontal expansion and a vertical extension that extends non-conforming setbacks. 2307 Mt. Pleasant St. is requesting a horizontal extension with non-conforming setbacks. Penny Ashby, Senior Zoning Planner with the City, called President Lemajic to ask if our meetings are well-publicized, he confirmed that they are, and she said she would make note of it at the City Board meetings. There are also 2 applications on the BAR agenda. 2307 Mt. Pleasant St. is requesting partial demolition of a historic structure. 1 Kyle Place is asking for demolition of a historic structure.

4. Environment - Mr. Jarosch contacted Chris Morgan, the City's Planning Manager, to request information about Magnolia. He said the Magnolia developers do not want to publicize anything yet. Treasurer Thomas said she wrote a letter to Cm Sakran and Gregorie to ask about getting a new traffic study for Magnolia, and that request was supposedly passed to the traffic division. Mr. Jarosch also contacted Charleston Water Systems to inquire about whether any lead materials were left in the ground, but he did not get an answer. Treasurer Thomas said that they previously said that there were old materials left in place but that they were plugged. CWS has also not answered about whether they will be able to handle all of this new development.

5. Publicity/Membership - Ms. Bronneberg has nothing to report.

NEW CONCERNS:

1. Treasurer Thomas noted that the new speed bump on Grove St. between 10th and 11th is huge and is basically a plateau that is terrible for everyone's cars. Mr. Bishop thinks our argument should be that the speed bumps should be consistent, and that one is abnormally large. President Lemajic is going to reach out to inquire about it and ask whether there is a reason it is so anomalous.

2. Mr. Bishop noted that the end of St. Margaret St. by Lowndes Grove currently looks terrible because so many cars have parked and/or turned around there and made it muddy. Since it is the best access to water views, he wondered if there was something we could do to improve it. It is technically Lowndes

Grove property. VP Nicholson offered to reach out to them to talk about it since he has a good relationship with them.

3. VP Nicholson noted that we have elections coming up. He encouraged people to think about stepping up into a new role. The Treasurer role will be vacant, as Ms. Thomas has reached the max term limit for each officer position and is not eligible for reelection.

4. Mr. Jarosch said that he has white, wheat, and rye sourdough starter if anyone would like some.

Treasurer Thomas moved to end the meeting, and Ms. Cale seconded. There was a unanimous vote to close the meeting. Meeting closed at 8:11 pm.

The next WTNA Meeting will be April 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Handy Contacts:

Wagenerterrace@wagenerterrace.org

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

Lowndes Grove MOD 843-708-4314

Code/Livability 843-805-3226

Councilman Gregorie: 843-327-7900 (Mona Lisa), personal #: 843-819-6619

Councilman Sakran (District 3) 843-819-0507

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