Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

October 19, 2020
Minutes
[Virtual Meeting via Google Meet]
WTNA website address: www.wagenerterrace.org

Meeting was called to order @ 7:05 by President Amanda Gurski. She asked any first time or non-resident guests to identify themselves. There were none.

REPORTS

Minutes:
The minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting, having been posted on the WTNA website for a month, were approved as posted. The motion was made by Petar Lemajic, seconded by Susan Cale and passed unanimously.

Financials:
Treasurer Gail Thomas reported a checking account balance of $30,430.05 and a savings account balance of $5,004.56. In response to a query, Treasurer Thomas indicated that she would be transferring $17,500 from checking to savings as indicated in the approved budget.

PRESENTATIONS

1. ***Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Ordinance Change Proposal***. President Gurski recognized Eric Hofstrom, 210 Gordon Street, who had made a presentation at the September WTNA meeting about his request to the BAR for a permit to demolish an outbuilding and renovate the back of his home and outbuilding. Mr. Hofstrom then gave a review of the history of his permit request with pictures of other properties that were affected by recent changes in ordinances under the purview of the BAR. He discussed options for redress of the concerns of repair vs. replacement of windows with energy efficiencies, requiring the use of original materials in renovations, extreme costs associated with the repair vs. replacement, especially with older residents who are trying to stay in their homes. He indicated that there was some discussion to try to reverse the application of these ordinances for the Upper Peninsula area, which were only recently applied. He proposed, however, that the strategy that might be more successful is a proposal that the BAR purview be restricted to the front of homes, that residents be allowed to replace windows with energy efficiencies, while maintaining the style of replaced windows (i.e., 3 over one, six over one, etc.). President Gurski then led a general discussion of the members present, and Mr. Hofstrom answered questions, including the reading of a letter written by College of Charleston professor, Dr. Rachel Donaldson, encapsulating the proposed changes in BAR purview. A motion was made by Gail Thomas and seconded by Patti Comfort-Capers that a two-pronged letter be written from the WTNA to the City requesting a thorough explication and clarification of the new rules applicable to WT, and secondly, expressing concern about the likely acceleration of gentrification in WT due to increased costs of repair vs. replacement. The motion passed unanimously. Another motion was made by Mike Turner and seconded by Gail Thomas that a letter of support for Dr. Rachel Donaldson's initiative to limit the purview of the BAR as expressed in her letter to the City. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **CITY COUNCIL/ POLICE/ CITADEL**

There were no representatives present at the meeting.

3. **NEW BUSINESS/ LOCAL ISSUES**

   A. **Traffic Control Requests.** President Gurski asked that this item be deferred to another meeting. There were no objections.

B. Halloween Howl.
President Gurski announced that there was a Friday event at the police department at 180 Lockwood Blvd from 4 to 6 pm.

C. US 17 Corridor Congestion Improvement Survey. President Gurski indicated that this survey would be made available to the membership in the event members wanted to participate.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS
Yard of the Month: 217 St. Margaret Street, home of Michelle and Nicky Holland. President Gurski acknowledged that the October award tended to focus on Halloween decorations. The Holland home is replete with creative "eyes" in the shrubbery.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Nancy Wilson reported that the distribution of reusable grocery bags to all residents of WT was completed. President Gurski expressed appreciation for a job well done during the pandemic.

REMINDERS
Annual dues can be paid by mailing $10/ person to Gail Thomas at 354 Grove Street, Charleston, 29403. Gail says that the dues can also be dropped by if that was convenient. Please provide contact information: name, address, e-mail, and phone number.

Meeting was adjourned @ 7:58 p.m. Motion made by Gail Thomas and seconded by Jeanie Knowlton.

Next WTNA Meeting is **November 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm**. An e-mail 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: October 21, 2020