# Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

November 16, 2020
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. There were none identified.

**REPORTS**

**Minutes:**
The minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting, having been posted on the WTNA website for weeks, were approved as posted. The motion was made by Greg Smith, seconded by Gail Thomas, and passed unanimously.

**Financials:**
Treasurer Gail Thomas reported a checking account balance of $12,970.05 and a savings account balance of $22,504.60. Treasurer Thomas indicated that she had transferred $17,500 from checking to savings as directed in the approved budget. Also, payments to the Lowcountry Food Bank, Greater St Luke AME and Florence Crittenton were made during the month in accordance with the approved 2020-21 budget.

**PRESENTATION**

1. ***Army Corps of Engineers Conceptual Plan – Flood Control on the Charleston Peninsula***. President Gurski recognized Christopher Morgan, a planning manager of the City of Charleston, who made a presentation about the proposed wall to reduce flooding on the peninsula. Mr. Morgan showed a map of the west side of the peninsula to illustrate the variation in elevation, coastline, marsh areas and the line of the proposed wall. He made the following points: 1) there are not a lot of details about the "wall" proposal because the consultants, Waggoner Ball, have not completed their design; 2) there is significant variation in elevation on the peninsula, and that the appearance of the wall will not be a 12-foot height in all areas; and 3) there will be "gates" spanning the marsh areas that will not be closed except for extreme tides and weather flooding events. Edmond Most commented that an alternative to the "wall" concept might involve the reclaiming of marsh areas, such as the first block west of Rutledge on Gordon and Simons streets. There may be need to buy back homes that are currently in flood-prone areas, as well as lifting the elevation of other homes in WT. Anna Lee Turner spoke in support of this alternative to the "wall." Mr. Most further notes that there were two type of flooding affecting these areas: "rainy day" flooding vs. tidal flooding. Another member asked how the wall would affect the current docks that home owners have on the Ashley River. Mr. Morgan suggested that there may be areas where stairs would surmount the wall. Greg Smith questioned the use of "gates" in the marsh. Mr. Morgan stated that the gates would generally remain open for tidal flow. Mr. Most questioned the appearance of the proposed pump stations. Mr. Morgan said that the location of the pump stations was not yet finalized and that he supposed their appearance would be "fairly industrial." President Gurski asked about the decision timeline for the project. Mr. Morgan said that a report from Waggoner Ball was expected in mid-December, and a January comment period was likely. The next phase would be more detailed engineering. Mr. Most questioned if there would be some anticipated mitigation federal funds for disturbance of the wetlands. Mr. Morgan noted that generally that fund generation was $1M/ acre of disturbed wetlands. Mr. Most questioned if those funds could be used to reclaim some wetland areas that were previously discussed. Mr. Morgan responded that he did not know the answer to that question, but that it could be part of the community's response during the comment period

## 2. CITY COUNCIL/ POLICE/ CITADEL

President Gurski introduced **Lt. Timothy Dasher**, the newly appointed Commander of Team One, Charleston Police Department, for an area stretching from Calhoun Street to the Charleston Neck. Lt. Dasher also introduced his Administrative Sergeant, **Sgt. Joe Owens** who was also present. Lt. Dasher asked the members to express their concerns and areas that the police "can do better." He indicated that he had pulled data for the Wagener Terrace area from May until the present. There were 13 incidents of car break-ins during that six month period, and there was an uptick of these crimes during the pandemic. The cars were generally unlocked, but that car windows are sometimes broken if there was merchandise or guns visible inside the cars. He estimated that 90% of car break-ins are in unlocked cars. Jennifer Bailey indicated that **RING cameras** can sometimes produce video of these crimes. Lt. Dasher asked that any video that identifies car license plates, persons peering in windows, etc., be forwarded to him or Sgt. Owens. He promised that all such video would be evaluated. As part of his desire to increase communication between residents and law enforcement, Lt. Dasher wants to be able to email residents to inform them about criminal activity, sources of the sound of gunfire, or other concerns as soon as possible. President Gurski suggested that he email such notices to Nancy Wilson who will then forward them to her list of WTNA members. Jennifer Padilla asked about extreme speeders on Rutledge Avenue. She has noticed that there are individual vehicles that repeat their speeding, sometimes veering around vehicles in a very dangerous way. Nancy Wilson said that the early morning and early evening traffic contained the greatest proportion of speeders on Rutledge. President Gurski also commented that some speeders have discovered a "loop" (Sans Souci to Ashely to Simons) to avoid congestion on Rutledge, with speeds on Ashley approaching 50 mph. Gail Thomas asked Lt. Dasher if there was anything else he could share about crimes in Wagener Terrace. He stated that in the six months of records, there was no violent crime. There was one burglary and one robbery. Jennifer Bailey again noted that cameras can detect persons wandering in yards. Jeff Montgomery and many other members expressed appreciation to Lt. Dasher and Sgt. Owens for their service and thanked them for attending the WTNA meeting.

Councilman **Jason Sakran** was recognized by President Gurski for comments. The Councilman noted that the financial situation of the City was such that a millage increase was being discussed to maintain essential services. A lot of new activity is having to be curtailed, such as traffic studies, etc. If there is no federal help forthcoming (i.e., stimulus funds for cities and states) it is likely that furlough of city workers would result.

## 3. NEW BUSINESS/ LOCAL ISSUES

There was no new business.

## 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Yard of the Month: there was no YOM identified for this period.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8 p.m.

## REMINDERS

**There is no WTNA Meeting in December. The next WTNA Meeting** is **January 18, 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: November 17, 2020