Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

June 15, 2020
Minutes
[Virtual Meeting via Zoom]
WTNA website address: www.wagenerterrace.org

Meeting was called to order @ 7:00 by Vice President Petar Lemajic. He asked any first time or non-resident guests to identify themselves. Ms. Jennifer Metts identified herself, attending on behalf of her parents, John and Dana Campbell. She reminded members that John Campbell was one of the founding members of WTNA, and, at his behest, she wanted to make sure that his membership status remained active through payment of annual dues. V. President Lemajic requested that a note of her request be made in the minutes for follow-up by Treasurer Gail Thomas. Jarrett Nicholson also identified himself to the members.

V.P. Lemajic noted that the minutes of the May 18 meeting had been posted as a draft on the website. Alston Middleton made a motion to approve the minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Amanda Gurski and approved by voice vote. V.P. Lemajic made the Treasurer's Report for Gail Thomas who had not yet joined the meeting:

Checking account has balance of $31,500.01 less an obligation of $500 to be paid to Charleston Parks Conservancy on June 19. Savings account has balance of $5,004.40

City Council/Police/Citadel:

Councilman Sakran (District 3) and Councilman Gregorie (District 6) were not present at the meeting. There were no representatives of the City Police or The Citadel who identified themselves. Alston Middleton commented that WTNA needed to have consistent police representation at our meetings, and it was suggested that Councilman Sakran be asked to facilitate that representation in the future.

V.P. Lemajic noted that he had been informed that a zoning appeal had been filed for the residence at 304 Grove Street. Nancy Wilson reported that she had been contacted by the residents and did not know the full extent of the project except that there was a setback issue. V.P. Lemajic asked for volunteers to attend the virtual meeting.

New Business:

a.) **City of Charleston Parks & Recreation Master Plan**
V.P. Lemajic announced that the Parks Department and the Recreation Department were seeking input from Charleston residents in the development of a 10-year plan for city parks and recreation opportunities. The pandemic has seriously impacted the face-to-face opportunities to gather citizen input. The Departments had communicated with all the neighborhood associations about the ways that citizens could give their input, and he would be e-mailing that communication to all association members.

[At this point in the meeting, the Zoom meeting was interrupted by unknown persons who were presenting images meant to disrupt the meeting. V.P. Lemajic closed the meeting immediately. The meeting was reconvened under new meeting id and password approximately 10 minutes later.]

New Business (Cont'd):

b.) Bag Distribution. Nancy Wilson, leader of the distribution of WTNA reusable bags, has identified and confirmed 9 team leaders and their distribution areas. Instructions for safe delivery of the bags have been provided to the leaders.

On-Going/Old Business:
Gail Thomas reported a concern about the membership year duration. Current By-Laws call for the renewal of membership by June 1 each year (i.e., that the memberships run from June 1 to May 31). She noted that a more logical year duration was from July 1 thru June 30 each year. There was some discussion of the merits of this change. It was recommended that Gail compose a draft of the By-Law change for the July 20 meeting that would address her concern. She also announced that membership dues could be mailed to her at 354 Grove Street and she would deliver new membership cards. It was also suggested that memberships be considered still active for several months until the need for virtual meetings eased.

Committee Reports:

Yard of the Month: Karl & Donna Gueldner, 311 Grove Street
Longborough Dock: No report.
Growth Management: No report.
Sunshine: No report.

New Concerns:
Gail Thomas noted that there have been recent discussions about prohibiting vehicle traffic in the oval of Hampton Park on a permanent basis**.** She expressed concern that this would force more residents in the southern part of Wagener Terrace to travel on Rutledge Avenue, especially without a traffic light on Cleveland Avenue. A spirited discussion ensued. Greg Smith noted that the mixture of vehicles, bikes and pedestrians on the oval was a great safety concern. Lyn Smith remarked that the signs prohibiting trucks on the oval had been removed and that the tree canopy had been trimmed to allow for larger vehicles to travel around the park. Mike Turner suggested that no permanent action be taken on the traffic issues until after the current pandemic has eased. There are several neighborhoods affected and it would be unfortunate for some to complain later that permanent changes had been made without adequate opportunities for citizen input. It was also noted that other signage needed to be added to have walkers and runners face the bike and vehicle traffic. Many pedestrians are moving around the oval in the wrong direction creating even greater safety concerns.

Scheduling:
V.P. Lemajic noted that the comment period is fast approaching closure for the Army Corps of Engineers flood mitigation study, including the proposed construction of a wall around the peninsula.

Meeting was adjourned @ 8:00 p.m.

Next WTNA Meeting is **July 20, 2020**. An announcement 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
Street Lighting Contact: Mikki Lewis
843-576-8385 cell 843-996-0676

BOD: Amanda Gurski, Petar Lemajic, Mike Turner, Gail Thomas, Jeanie Knowlton, Susan Cale, Nancy Wilson and Anna Turner

Revised: June 17, 2020