Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

July 20, 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.

Minutes:

President Gurski called on the Secretary regarding Minutes of the Meeting of June 15, 2020. Secretary Turner noted that the draft minutes had been posted on the wagenerterrace.org website for the last month and recommended approval. A motion Greg Smith for approval was seconded by Jeanie Knowlton. The motion passed unanimously.

Financials:

Vice President Lemajic reported a checking account balance of $31,050 and a savings account balance of $5,004.404.

City Council/Police/Citadel:

Councilman Sakran (District 3) was not present because of invited attendance at another meeting, but reported to Vice President Lemajic that he would try to join the meeting before the close. No other officials were present at the meeting.

New Business:

a.) **City of Charleston 10-Year Plan**
President Gurski reported that she and V.P. Lemajic, along with other invited Neighborhood Leaders, had attended a July 7 Zoom meeting with City officials, including the Mayor and Jacob Lindsey, to discuss priorities in the development of Charleston's 2020 10-year plan. Gurski remarked that the 10-year plan is important as a guide for development of policies and programs for a 10-year period. V.P. Lemajic noted that the WTNA had put forward two major issues: 1.) the Hampton Park pedestrian/car traffic plan and need for a public forum on the issue, and 2.) the "gentrification" effect on housing and information on programs and plans to help keep residents in their homes in Wagener Terrace. President Gurski called for any comments, noting that she had sent an e-mail to Board Members with background information underpinning the 10-year plan development. President Gurski clarified that "affordable housing" was not a synonym for "public housing." She noted that affordable housing was not owned by the government, but privately developed with government incentives for residents who did not exceed a certain income level.

b.) Oyster Roast Cancellation
Vice President Lemajic reported that the Board of Directors, at a meeting on July 9, had discussed the concerns about COVID-19 and the January Oyster Roast. He reported that the Board had recommended cancellation of the event, with the understanding that there might be another event involving the WT Community at a later date in the year. Alston Middleton commented that he concurred with the recommendation of the Board, but hoped that we could still have some kind of unifying event later in the year. After limited discussion, V.P. Lemajic made a motion to cancel the Oyster Roast in January with the understanding that there would be efforts to have a Wagener

Terrace community event when conditions improved. Mike Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c.) Bag Distribution.

Nancy Wilson, leader of the distribution of WTNA reusable bags, reported that three geographical areas of WT had bags distributed to 100%, three other areas were nearly finished, and the others were beginning distribution. She estimated that the distribution was at least 50% complete for all of WT. Nancy was complimented by President Gurski and others for her organization and hours spent in stuffing bags with the circulars. Nancy Wilson commented that we had already received positive feedback from some resident non-members.

d.) Laurel Island Development.

President Gurski and Vice-President Lemajic gave an overview of the location of the Laurel Island Project and a general description of the concept and design that was shared in an "information" session with the City Planning Commission via Zoom on July 15 at 5 p.m. Gail Thomas was also a participant in the Zoom meeting. This is a massive project, comprising about 200 acres at a site just north of the Charleston side of the Ravenel Bridge. The site had previously been a massive Charleston County dump site. It is unclear who owns the site, which may have been transferred from Charleston County to the City of Charleston. The concept of development is a multi-use development. There will be some multi-story buildings concentrated near Morrison Drive, so as not to obstruct the river view from smaller buildings. There has also been a claim that the east-west streets would all have a view of the Cooper River. There is a proposed walk-around path for the whole perimeter of the island, which would also include parks and a ball field. Gail Thomas remarked that it appeared from the Zoom meeting that many of the more influential members of the commission were already familiar with the proposed development. President Gurski, Vice President Lemajic, and Treasurer Gail Thomas all expressed concern that there has not been much feedback on the proposed development which might be construed as tacit support. President Gurski was also taken aback when the developer, who is a resident of WT, suggested that WT would not really be affected by the Laurel Island development. Mike Turner expressed concern about the environmental issues entailed in the development of a former dump site. Given the age of the dump, there may be contaminants in the soil that would pose health risks. President Gurski noted that the civil engineers involved with the development should be questioned about this issue. Vice President Lemajic announced that there would be a Google Meet discussion of the Laurel Island development on Tuesday, July 28 at 5:30 p.m.

On-Going/Old Business:

President Gurski reminded the members that annual dues could be paid by mailing $10/ person to Gail Thomas as 354 Grove Street, Charleston, 29403. Gail noted that the dues could be dropped by if that was convenient.

Gail Thomas again 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. Since this necessitated a change in By-Laws, President Gurski suggested that the matter be referred to Board of Directors who would make a recommendation to the membership.

Committee Reports:

Yard of the Month: Bob Newman, 223 Poplar Street

Longborough Dock: No report.

Growth Management: No report.

Sunshine: No report.

New Concerns:

President called for any additional concerns or announcements. There were none.

Meeting was adjourned @ 7:50 p.m.

Next WTNA Meeting is **August 17, 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

Completed: July 21, 2020