Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

April 20, 2020

Minutes

[Virtual Meeting via FreeConference Call.com]

Meeting was called to order @ 7:00 by Pres. Gurski

February minutes were accepted as posted on the website. The March meeting was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Pres. Gurski, noting that 13 households had signed on to the meeting and that several households had two members in good standing, the quorum requirement of at least 15 members was met. Pres. Gurski made the Treasurer's Report for Gail Thomas:

Finances:	Checking	$35,241.90 (of that, $1253.00 is for the Dog Park Fund)
	Savings	$ 5,004.31

City Council/Police/Citadel;

Councilman Gregorie was present and made a report. He noted that City Council had been having virtual meetings almost daily since the pandemic began. He reported that he was working to get additional funds allocated to Wagener Terrace to address flooding along Rutledge Ave. If successful, this allocation would come from the City's $1 million maintenance budget. He invited members to contact him if they were aware of other flooding issues that could possibly be addressed by these funds.

Councilman Gregorie announced that regular trash pickup should resume this week. He also announced that projections show that the pandemic will cause the City potential deficits of $11-12 million, mainly because of hospitality tax shortfalls as tourism has ceased. He reminded the members that the City must maintain a balanced budget by law, and that these shortfalls would be addressed by budget cuts. He indicated that the Council would have a budget workshop tomorrow (April 21).

Councilman Gregorie reported to members that a count of COVID-19 cases by zip code has been released by DHEC and that zip code 29403 has a surprising number of cases. He will be monitoring this, but can get no more specific information about the cases in our neighborhood because of privacy concerns. [Currently there are 28 reported cases of COVID-19 in zip code 29403.]

Councilman Gregorie reported that the Corps of Engineers had been in Charleston for months working on a plan (3 X 3 X 3) to address flooding in Charleston. Greg Smith noted that he had been reading the report on-line before the meeting. It is readily available on the internet, and he encouraged all members to read and provide feedback on this important development. Councilman Gregorie noted that the major piece of the plan was the construction of a 12' wall around the peninsula, not all of which will be visible. Greg Smith said that this multi-year project was to protect the peninsula from major flooding in the decades ahead. Councilman Gregorie commented that the City would have to come up with 30% of the funding, but it would be spread out across the years of construction. Mayor Tecklenburg has encouraged all Charlestonians to provide feedback on the proposal. Pres. Gurski will e-mail the report's website address.

In response to a question about the Longborough Dock project, Councilman Gregorie reported that the project had hit a legal snag, and that he would look into it and report back to the membership.

New Business:

President Gurski called on Mike Turner to present an idea about a special donation from the Association to the Lowcountry Food Bank. Turner noted that the pandemic was putting a lot of pressure on local food banks; that many families were without paychecks to purchase food. He recommended that the WTNA make a donation of $1,000 to the Lowcountry Food Bank. Alston Middleton made a motion to approve the $1,000 donation. The motion was seconded by Nancy Wilson. **A voice vote was**

unanimous to approve the motion. Nancy Wilson commented that the Blessing Box at the corner of St. Margaret and Rutledge is in need of replenishment with appropriate foods. It was requested that an e-mail go out to the membership about the Blessing Box. President Gurski challenged the WTNA membership to make private donations to the Lowcountry Food Bank and hoped to communicate with other neighborhood associations about making similar donations.

On-Going/Old Business:

Yard-of-the-Month: 207 Gordon Street, Leslie Casey

Longborough Dock: Councilman Gregorie noted that he believed that the project hit a legal snag, but he will inquire with City staff and report back to the membership.

Growth Management: Nothing new to report

Members and Residents: President Gurski noted that the reusable WTNA grocery bags have been fabricated and are stored at her home. She suggested that distribution to homes in Wagener Terrace be delayed until a later date. She noted that a printed WTNA update sheet would also be included in the bags.

Sunshine: Councilman Gregorie noted that former Councilman Waring passed away recently.

Nominating Committee for WTNA Board Members: President Gurski announced that in addition to the Chairman, Alston Middleton, other committee members are: Mike Hilfer, Kelly Hobbs, and Hannah Reynolds. The committee will make nominations of members in good standing to fill four Board Member slots for upcoming two-year terms.

Meeting was adjourned @ 8:00 p.m.

Next WTNA Meeting is May 18, 2020.

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, Kelly Olson, Nancy Wilson and Alston Middleton