Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

July 15, 2019

Minutes

Meeting was called to order @ 7:00 by new President Amanda Gurski. She indicated her goals for the organization included increased and efficient communication and incremental improvement of the neighborhood. She also recognized new member Chris Disharoon from 309 Meeting Street.

The June 17, 2019 minutes were read by Secretary Turner and accepted.

Treasurer Thomas reported the Finances as follows:

Checking $33,815.57
Savings $ 5,003.58
Checking account activity included a $2,000 contribution to Florence Crittenton and a $120 deposit for membership dues.

City Council/Police/Citadel:

Lieutenant Andre Jenkins was in attendance as the new commander of Team 1 for the Charleston Police Department. He reported a review of the recent crime statistics for Wagener Terrace, which showed virtually no violent crime, but crimes of property are continuing to happen. Breaking into vehicles and burglaries are still taking place. He urged members to: (1) set house alarms; (2) lock cars with no keys in vehicles; (3) when going out-of-town use the "keep-a-check" program, call police department before leaving to check on property while you are away, and they will leave a slip on the door. Lt. Jenkins gave his phone number and e-mail address: jenkinsa@charleston-sc.gov and (843) 720-3913. He also invited any members interested in serving on the Police Board to let Councilmen Gregorie or Lewis know.

City Councilmen Gregorie (district 6) and Lewis (district 3) were present. Councilman Gregorie informed the membership that the improper activity on the 5-lot property at 8th and Gordon were shut down by the City. Several City departments have been involved including Livability and Storm Water. The owner has been notified and the intended Creekside use as a boat storage area is not permitted. Councilman Lewis reported that the flooding problems at King and Huger would be addressed soon by the City.

New Business/ Local Issues:

President Gurski reported on the most recent Neighborhood Consortium meeting with City officials. The three issues reported from Wagener Terrace were (1) adding a traffic light on Rutledge and Moultrie and changing the light at Rutledge and Cleveland to a stop sign; (2) Shift blinking traffic lights on Rutledge from beginning at 10 pm to 12 pm; and (3) strengthen Short Term Rental enforcement of 50% occupancy (6 months out of 12) by owner. She reported that Item (1) was a state issue. Item (2) would be reviewed by City since they have jurisdiction of the

time element with traffic lights. Item (3) is dependent on citizens reporting non-occupancy "over and over" to city Office of Livability.

President Gurski announced that proposed amendments to the WTNA Bylaws have been posted to the wagenerterrace.org website. She reviewed reasons for proposed bylaws amendments, primarily to make requirements for office holders to be more defined and less subject to interpretation. She urged members to review the proposed changes in order to be able to vote on the changes at the August 19 meeting.

On-Going/Old Business:

YOM: 267 St. Margaret, Bruce Newton

Oyster Roast and BBQ Jan 12, 2020. We need a Committee to start early on the event. Gail Thomas encouraged the members to participate, and that committee members should have discrete areas of responsibility. She also suggested that we consider capping the ticket sales to the event at 500-550. Another suggestion was to raise the price of the tickets by $5 -- advance adult $25, adult at the gate to $30, and to also sell tickets for children. Lowndes Grove rep Kelly Olsen announced that the WTNA recent payment to Lowndes Grove would be returned as a contribution for the 2020 Oyster Roast. Kelly Olsen noted that Lowndes Grove could handle 600-650 attendees and could help with other matters including security and servers.

President Gurski noted that we will give the membership until the August meeting to think about volunteering for a committee: (1)the Oyster Roast; (2) City Zoning Issues in WT; (3) Environment; (4) Membership; (5) Yard-o-the-Month; and (6) Sunshine.

President Gurski introduced newly elected Board Members: Alston Middleton, Kelly Olsen, Jeanie Knowlton.

Growth Management:

There were no permit or upcoming issues to report. President Gurski noted that she wanted to develop a WTNA form letter to file with the City every time a zoning issue appears on the City Zoning Variance Committee that was not presented previously to the WTNA membership in order to have us be more proactive, rather than scrambling in a reactive mode when neighborhood zoning issues became known. Councilman Gregorie suggested that Sue Griffin with the City might be able to e-mail the President as soon as a proposed variance for a Wagener Terrace property was filed with the City.

New Concerns:

Edmond Most reported that there was a need for speed bumps on Ashley/Sans Souci and Simons Streets since there were no stop signs and traffic was speeding in areas where there was congestion at the intersection. Petar Lemajic moved and Gail Thomas seconded a motion that WTNA support the request for speed bumps from the City and assist in the application/ documentation process. Motion passed unanimously.

There was a suggestion from Les Schwartz that WTNA consider sending a leaflet to all WT residents via bulk mailing that outlines procedures for seeking permits, zoning variances or demolitions, to include a review by WTNA prior to applications to the City. Gail Thomas suggested that this communication could accomplished simultaneously with the dissemination of Wagener Terrace grocery bags as a replacement for plastic bags instead of a bulk mailing. The Wagener Terrace bags could be purchased by WTNA. Les Schwartz suggested that the offices or persons responsible for having the meeting room available at Greater St. Luke's AME Church be added to the robocall announcement for upcoming WTNA meetings.

Members and Residents

Sunshine – No report.

Announcements:

President Gurski announced that Mayor Tecklenburg will attend the August 19 meeting to hear concerns. It is not a political event. She also noted that Mayoral candidates will attend the September WTNA.

Meeting was adjourned @ 7:46 pm

Next WTNA Meeting is August 19, 2019

Handy Contacts:

WTNACharleston@gmail.com
www.wagenerterrace.org
Police Dispatch (non-emergency) 843-743-7200
Lowndes Grove MOD 843-708-4314
Gregorie 843-327-7900 (Mona Lisa)
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
Lewis 843-901-3897
SCE&G 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 and Alston Middleton