Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

www.wagenerterrace.org

October 21, 2019

Minutes

1. **Welcome and Call to Order**. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Amanda Gurski.
2. **Introduction/New Attendees/Guests**. Several guests introduced themselves to the membership.
3. **Reports -- Minutes and Financials**. Secretary Mike Turner noted that the minutes of the September 16, 2019 regular meeting were posted as a draft for the last month on the WTNA website (see above) and asked for any additions or corrections and to be accepted as posted. The Financial Report was given by Treasurer Gail Thomas, who noted that the balance of checking and savings accounts were printed on the agenda: Checking -- $31,330.57; Savings -- $5004.05.
4. **Presentations:**
   a.) **Brew with a View at Lowndes Grove, 5 pm on Wednesday, Oct 23.** President Gurski recognized Kelly Olsen, Manager in the Patrick Properties Hospitality Group and Member of the WTNA Board. Kelly explained to the membership that an event with complimentary drinks and light snacks was being organized by PPHG as a Wagener Terrace neighborhood appreciation event. All residents are invited to Lowndes Grove for family friendly fun at 5 pm on Wednesday, Oct 23.

   b.) **Mayoral Candidates Presentations.** President Gurski introduced the mayoral candidates in attendance for 5 minute presentations or Q & A. **Maurice Washington** spoke first. He noted his 43 years of residency in Wagener Terrace, and his previous service as City Councilman in the area from 1991-99. He stressed "education" as the most important issue facing Charleston, stating that "Education is everybody's business." **Gary White** spoke after Mr. Washington, emphasizing his 12 years of service as a Councilman and that he grew up in Charleston. He stated that he was a West Ashley businessman and that Charleston needs great leadership, noting that Charleston has a $200 million annual budget and 1,800 employees. He further stated that there had been a lack of communication between the City Council and Mayor, and that he had been asked to run by several city councilmen to address that issue. The next candidate to speak was **Renee Orth**. Ms. Orth noted that very serious problems face the city including climate change as evidenced by rising sea levels and our carbon footprint. She said that as Charlestonians we need to "put our differences aside" and that "we have to wake up" as to the seriousness of this crisis. The next candidate to speak was **Mike Seekings**. Mr. Seekings noted his 10 years of experience on City Council, his work as Board Chair of the Regional Transportation Authority and his service as organizer of the Charleston Cooper River Bridge Run

this past year). He stated that in Charleston's 350 years we had not seen as much dynamic change and growth as in the present. He reminded the membership about the long fight on City Council to establish running and bike lanes in Hampton Park. He assured the members that he was also interested in addressing climate change in response to a question by Member Jarett Nicholson. President Gurski noted that the Mayor was delayed, but that he was on his way to the meeting. She urged all members to vote on November 5, and commented that she was serving as a poll manager in Burke High School. Member Carmen Gaston commented to the members that there would be new machines in this election and that all should be patient in learning the new machines. She also noted that there was another training session for poll managers if anyone was interested. Another Member announced that mothers of young children are allowed to vote early by absentee ballot.

5. **Reports of City Councilmen/ Police/ The Citadel**
   Responding to a question of Vice-President Petar Lemajic, **Councilman Dudley Gregorie** reported that negotiations with the Longborough Neighborhood Association (LNA) were still ongoing regarding the public docks/ reserved docks in the Longborough neighborhood. There is an agreement between the City and the LNA, but these details still need to be resolved before construction can begin. There were no **Police** or **Citadel** representatives in attendance to make a report from those organizations.
6. **New Business/ Local Issues**. President Gurski called for any new business. There was none.
7. **On-Going Business/ Committee Reports.**
   a.) There was no report of the **Yard-of-the-Month Committee**. There was no report from the **Sunshine Committee**, but one member announced that Ms. Earsie Simmons-Jackson of Simmons Street had passed recently at the age of 102. There were no reports of the **Environment**, **Zoning**, and **Publicity/Membership Committees**.
   6. **Oyster Roast Sub-Committee Reports**. **Mr. Jarett Nicholson**, Chair of the **Ticket Sales Committee** reported that on-line ticket sales had already commenced through the City Paper. He noted that Advance Adult Tickets were $25 and Children (ages 6-12) tickets were $13. Some tickets will be held back for sale at the event on January 12. Ticket prices at the gate will be $30 and $15, respectively. He said that tickets would be available for advance sale at Torres, In-and-Out, Moe's Crosstown, and The Park Café starting this next week. **Mike Turner**, Chair of the **Advertising Committee,** reported that flyers had already been printed for the ticket outlets and other locations. He showed the members the deteriorating condition of the banner used at the corner of Rutledge and Grove for many years. He asked the membership for authorization to replace the banner and also approve the printing of four yard signs, printed front and back, to be placed in the yards of the Board Members beginning early November. President Gurski recognized Mike Turner to move that he be authorized to spend $350 for these advertising items. The motion was made and seconded. The question was called by one of the members, and the motion was approved unanimously. Dr. Kim Hall, co-chair of the **Drinks Committee** reported

that they had received requests from some members to have another non-alcoholic beverage available besides water, so iced tea would be added to the drinks options. There was no report from the **Silent Auction Committee**. President Gurski remarked that Beatrice Frask had recommended Jennifer Bailey to head up the Silent Auction Committee, but her involvement had not yet been confirmed. She encourage Members to be thinking about sources of objects for the silent auction in order to help out the committee going forward. President Gurski, Vice-President Petar Lemajic and Treasurer Gail Thomas also encouraged more members to sign up for committee work after the meeting or for work on the day of the event. Gail Thomas reiterated that two hours of work on the day of the event entitled the member to free admission to the event.

7. **New Concerns.** One Member reported that Citadel cadets were parking on Dunneman Street to the extent that "cars were lining the street." There was also concern that some of the Citadel apartments on Dunneman Street may have been newly occupied despite assurances from the Citadel that they would be demolished. President Gurski responded that she would contact the Citadel administration and address these concerns with them.
8. **Mayoral Candidates Presentations (continued).** President Gurski recognized Mayor John Tecklenburg who reported that he had been held up by a late meeting and apologized to the Members. The Mayor started his remarks to note that he had spoken to the WTNA two months before, and he would therefore use his time to field questions from the Members. He spoke briefly about a Green Plan that had been presented to Council 10 years before, but had not been implemented. He and City staff had used that plan to identify some initiatives that would cut energy consumption and provide flood mitigation. He mentioned drainage projects underway as a result of consultations with the Dutch, who are known for their expertise in this area. He also responded to a question from Member Jean Turner regarding his continued support for the Navigation Center on 529 Meeting as a focal point for delivery of services to the homeless. The Mayor explained that the City was paying some of the expenses to maintain that facility so that other organizations could collaborate in supporting the homeless population in the City. He further noted that there had to be a location for services to this population.
9. **Adjournment.** President Gurski reminded Members to sign up as volunteers for the Oyster Roast and that the Mayoral candidates would be available after the meeting adjourned. A motion to adjourn was made and approved at 8:00 pm.