Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

January 17, 2022

Minutes

[Virtual Meeting via Google Meet]

WTNA website address: www.wagenerterrace.org

The January meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Vice President Jarett Nicholson. President Petar Lemajic was unable to attend due to a family emergency. This meeting had fewer attendees than normal, but VP Nicholson asked for any new meeting attendees to feel free to introduce themselves. Katie McKain introduced herself as the Director of Sustainability with the City of Charleston.

MINUTES: The previous month's minutes are posted on the website. Anna Lee Turner moved that the minutes from the November 2021 meeting be approved as posted on the website. Mike Hilfer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

FINANCIALS: Treasurer Gail Thomas reported that we have $6,726.50 in Checking and $17,507.15 in Savings. On December 20, 2021, she transferred $5,000 from Savings to Checking to use for expected oyster roast expenses. $353.07 was used for advertisements, printing, wristbands, roll tickets, etc.

PRESENTATION: No set presentations.

POLICE/CITY COUNCIL/CITADEL: No one from the Citadel was present, nor was Lt. Dasher or Councilmen Gregorie and Sakran.

NEW BUSINESS

1. VP Nicholson noted that President Lemajic was going to introduce a discussion on canceling our Calling Post subscription, but he said we will delay that topic until next month when President Lemajic is present to explain.

2. Katie McKain was present to discuss the City of Charleston's new pilot composting program. The Charleston City Council unanimously adopted the Climate Action Plan in May 2021, and one item listed in it is to start a composting program and look at ways to get food waste out of the landfill to help reduce emissions. This new program allows you to drop off food scraps at one of 3 designated drop sites. One dropsite is at Corinne Jones Park in our neighborhood. The program starts on January 23, and you do need to sign up if you want to participate. They have limited funding, so they are testing options and trying to see if the program will even work. Since

it's a pilot program, it's being tested for 6 months so they can evaluate the logistics, tweak if necessary, and consider whether the chosen drop sites will work. It is easy to participate - you just collect food scraps in a container at home and then take the scraps to a nearby drop-off site, which for us would be by the community garden at Corinne Jones Park, and then you would take home your container and repeat. You would be able to drop your scraps off anytime between dawn and dusk when the parks are open.

There are workshops coming up to help people learn about composting. They are giving away free kitchen composting caddies to workshop participants. These workshops will give you information about how to get started, provide an overview of how the program will work, explain what kind of products are accepted for composting, and teach you how to compost in your backyard. There are 4 major benefits to composting: 1. reducing trash and expenses associated with trash, 2. combating climate change by reducing methane emissions coming from food breaking down in the landfill, 3. helping to protect against flooding because composting nourishes soil, and healthy soil helps absorb more stormwater, and 4. saving plants and animals because it reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and helps make plants healthier without harming wildlife or ecosystems. For more information about the program or to sign up, visit www.charleston-sc.gov/compost

ONGOING BUSINESS

VP Nicholson provided an oyster roast update. The Oyster Roast Committee met about 2 weeks before the Oyster Roast was supposed to happen and decided to either postpone or cancel it due to the Omicron numbers. Ultimately, Lowndes Grove did not have any other dates available in February or March, so the Committee made the difficult decision to cancel. VP Nicholson reiterated that a lot of people put in a lot of hard work planning this event, so making this decision was really difficult, but upon reflection it still feels like the right decision. Mike Hilfer took responsibility for issuing everyone refunds. City Paper refunded everyone who bought online, and he noted that the main challenge was finding the people who paid in cash at Moe's and Park & Grove. He said that in the future we should collect contact information for the people who pay in cash. He did track down everyone and completed all of the cash refunds. VP Nicholson noted that Liz Bronneberg did great with advertising and then went back around and added cancellation notices to all of the signs, and he issued a big thanks to her for her efforts.

When the decision was made to cancel, $6000 had already been paid to Crazy Dutchman Catering. Initially they said that they would keep $3,000 and give us back $3,000, but VP Nicholson negotiated with him and considered different options, and the final decision was that Hans with Crazy Dutchman would keep $900 to pay himself and his employees, he would return $3,000 to us, and he would keep the remaining $2,100 as a deposit towards next year's oyster roast. The catering contract specified that the deposit does not have to be returned but can be negotiated, so contractually they were not obligated to give anything back to us. VP Nicholson thought Hans was friendly, and negotiations went well, and he is pleased with the resolution. Treasurer Thomas agreed that the outcome was a good compromise.

COMMITTEES

Nothing to report from any of the Committees.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

The Department of Traffic and Transportation has issued several street blocking permits related to our neighborhood. Charleston Water Systems has ongoing permits to block Grove Street between Rutledge Avenue and 12th Street through to February 11 in order to install the new water main. Dominion Energy in conjunction with Ertel Construction has a permit to block Sunnyside Avenue between Riverside Drive and Parrothead Lane from January 17 to January 31, 2022.

VP Nicholson also wanted us to note that the City is currently trying to schedule a meeting with the Neighborhood Association Presidents to present the policy statement that city staff and the Board of Architectural Review members have drafted which outlines materials that could be accepted in lieu of repairing or restoring character-defining features on buildings over 50 years old north of Line Street. The City says that the purposes of this policy statement are to better explain the BAR's work in that part of the city and provide flexibility, and this statement will not change or expand the BAR's purview. Following the meeting with the neighborhood presidents, there is a community meeting tentatively planned for the week of January 31-February 4. We will stay tuned for that since this policy statement directly relates to BAR action in our neighborhood.

NEW CONCERNS

Treasurer Thomas noted that the previously mentioned Financials numbers do not include the money that will be refunded from Crazy Dutchman. We will have $3,000 added back to Checking, $2,100 will be on hold for next year, and we lost $900 as a sunk cost.

Treasurer Thomas is going to talk to Bradley Thompson about options for getting better lighting for the dog park. VP Nicholson said we can discuss that further at the February meeting.

No more new concerns.

Treasurer Thomas moved to close the meeting, and Tyler Hueter seconded. Unanimous vote to close the meeting. Meeting ended at 7:33 pm.

The next WTNA Meeting will be February 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Handy Contacts:

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www.wagenerterrace.org

Tree Program: Anna McAllister

843-814-5553 or annamcallister@aol.com

Police Dispatch (non-emergency) 843-743-7200

www.crimeweb.net

Lowndes Grove MOD 843-708-4314

Code/Livability 843-805-3226

Councilman Gregorie 843-327-7900 (Mona Lisa)

Councilman Sakran (District 3) 843-819-0507

Councilman Gregorie's personal # 843-819-6619

City of Charleston Citizen Services Desk 843-724-7311

BOD: Petar Lemajic, Jarrett Nicholson, Gail Thomas, Jeanie Knowlton, Tyler Hueter, Susan Cale, Nancy Wilson, and Anna Turner

Completed: January 17, 2022