Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

September 19, 2022

Minutes

[Hybrid Meeting at 45 Moultrie St. and via Google Meet]

WTNA website address: www.wagenerterrace.org

The September meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Petar Lemajic.

MINUTES: The previous month's minutes are posted on the WTNA website in a zip document that includes additional relevant meeting documents. Treasurer Gail Thomas moved to approve the minutes from the July 2022 meeting as posted on the website. Tim Jarosch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

FINANCIALS: Treasurer Thomas reported that there is $3,023.91 in Checking and $22,508.47 in Savings. Since last month, we have taken in $50 in membership fees and given a $200 donation to the Lowcountry Food Bank. Treasurer Thomas made note that within the Checking account, $1200 is still earmarked for the Grove St. Dog Park, and within the Savings, $17,500 is designated for the Oyster Roast. We are also still expecting a $5,000 donation to come in from Lowndes Grove. Amber Cote from Patrick Properties said the donation will likely happen at the end of September or beginning of October. Treasurer Thomas thanked Ms. Cote for the Brew with a View, and Ms. Cote thanked us for spreading the word and said she was pleased with the turn-out and the opportunity to meet a lot of new neighbors.

PRESENTATIONS: No presentations this month.

POLICE/CITY COUNCIL/CITADEL: Neither Lt. Dasher, Councilman Sakran, nor Councilman Gregorie were present. Liz Bronneberg provided an update from the Citadel. She said the 100 Years on the Ashley celebration would occur on Friday, September 23, with a special parade at 3:45pm. Parents' Weekend is October 7-9, with several activities and events scheduled, and Homecoming is November 4-6 with several different class reunions being held on campus. The Citadel also wanted to remind us that the Starbucks, Chick-Fil-A, and the Citadel Dry Cleaner are all open to the public.

NEW BUSINESS/LOCAL ISSUES:

1. President Lemajic said there are a few projects which are requesting public input: the City changes to the Old City Height Districts, the County's comprehensive housing strategy, and the Union Pier

development plan. He asked that people peruse the material, which was also provided in our pre-meeting email, and consider providing input.

2. President Lemajic spoke to someone from the City, who confirmed that the Longborough dock area is public again, even though the sign still says it is private. Lyn Smith asked whether the Lowndes Point road is actually private, as its sign says. There was confusion over how they get recycling/trash service at their homes if the road is private. The general consensus among meeting attendees is that it is indeed private but that most people walk over there anyways.

3. Anna McAllister asked about the tree budget. Treasurer Thomas said that our budget has been slashed because we have not had any oyster roast income in two years, so our tree allotment went from 10 trees to 5 trees. Trees are $295, and the City pays half. The City of Charleston Urban Forestry Division planted 0 trees last year. In an email communication to Ms. McAllister, a division employee suggested that we speak to our City Council representatives and the Mayor to ask that they approve the Urban Forestry budget requests. They need to fill employee vacancies so that they have the manpower to consistently water on the weekends, which is crucial to help the trees survive the first year. James Bishop suggested that we get homeowners to agree to water the tree, but Ms. McAllister said that homeowners have been unreliable about that in the past, so ultimately the City does not trust that people will follow through sufficiently. Currently the insufficient number of employees means that they barely have time to manage their current load, much less plant more trees and water them regularly. They do plan to start planting this fall, but they will start with the people who already paid but have not received their trees yet. Treasurer Thomas agreed to review the budget to see if there was any wiggle room in how many trees we could help buy. Treasurer Thomas said that Ms. McAllister should be commended because the newspaper mentioned how good WT's tree program is.

4. Lynn McCollum-Lasher was present to inform us about Let's Walk, which is a nonprofit organization that connects volunteer walkers with people who need companions to walk outside. There are no fees involved. She is looking for more volunteers and more walkers. Interested parties should go to https://www.letswalk.us and it will tell you how to sign up. Walkers need to pass a screening to make sure they will not be a serious fall risk, and volunteers have to pass a background check and do a 1-hour training. The next volunteer training is October 27 at 6:30p at the Main Library in Meeting Room A.

5. President Lemajic asked that we approve the $77 purchase of a projector screen to be used for our meetings. Ms. Bronneberg made a motion to approve the purchase, and Treasurer Thomas seconded. None opposed.

6. Dan Henderson, who has lived in WT for 9 years, has a concern about increased traffic on St. Margaret Street to Lowndes Grove. He said the agreement they had with the City stated that guests would be bused in, but instead he has seen a great increase in the number of rideshares speeding through. He said St. Margaret becomes I-26 whenever there is a wedding, and often the drivers are looking down at their phones while they race by. He thinks someone is going to get hurt, especially given the big growth of children and families in the area. He said he understands that they have been grandfathered in and that people have property rights, but he thinks it is a big problem that there is "a party palace" at the back of the neighborhood such that every visitor has to pass through the width of our neighborhood to get there. He also noted that since they have been renting the property to the Outer Banks television show, there is also an additional stream of tourists who are interested in visiting. Ms. Cote said that she hopes Patrick Properties has proven that they are trying to be great stewards to the neighborhood and that

they do not want to alienate or upset anyone. She said they would like speed bumps to be put in. Lowndes Grove has security and staff who try to lessen the impact, but it is hard to totally prevent people from using rideshares to get there. Mr. Bishop chimed in to say that he agrees that St. Margaret has gotten pretty bad. Rebecca Bishop asked whether Lowndes Grove would be willing to help pay for the speed bumps to help expedite the process. Mr. Henderson interjected to say that he thinks they need to enforce the transportation requirement because it is not just the speed of vehicles that is problematic, it is also the volume. President Lemajic proposed a meeting with Cm Sakran to moderate a discussion with Ms. Cote, Mr. Henderson, and whoever else wants to participate, and he suggested that everyone bring suggestions for how to improve the situation. Ms. Cote said that they try to be proactive rather than reactive, and they want to find actionable change to do the right thing, but she also wanted to acknowledge that they cannot control everything and that discussion should also be pragmatic and fair. Amanda Gurski said she walks early in the morning and in the afternoon, and she thinks there is a big problem with our neighbors too, with many speeding and running stop signs, and she thinks it is helpful to acknowledge that this is a widespread problem not limited to Ubers and Lowndes Grove guests. She thinks we should support speed bumps if that is the best solution in that area. President Lemajic will reach out to Cm Sakran to set up a meeting, and he wants everyone to be thinking with a solutions mindset.

COMMITTEES:

1. Yard of the Month: Congratulations to the October Yard of the Month, Yolinda Zorn at 14 Piedmont Avenue!

2. Sunshine - Susan Cale said she did not have anything to report. Treasurer Thomas noted that the son of her neighbors on Grove Street died in a car accident, so she sent them a card. She suggested that we put something on the WTNA Facebook page to raise awareness about our desire to stay connected to the lives of our neighbors, and she also suggested that we make a wtnasunshine gmail address to put out as a contact.

3. Environment - Mr. Jarosch spoke about flooding concerns. He said that Simons Street and Piedmont Avenue is the central flooding area, along with Gordon Street. He thinks we have to argue for our flooding issues to be viewed as a system, rather than focusing on “my house” or a particular street block. He said we need to consider what we need for our drainage basin and ecosystem as a whole. Currently the water flows down from San Souci Street to Simons via Piedmont. Mr. Jarosch’s action plan is to get together with Cm Sakran and talk about our neighborhood as a cohesive whole, as it is not effective long-term to do piecemeal projects. Ms. McCollum-Lasher lives on Piedmont and said that it is, in effect, an outfall with water coming up out of the drains. She said they need signs or barricades to close the road during flood events because currently trucks speed through and send waves of water into people’s garages. Mr. Jarosch wondered whether anyone is keeping track of neighborhood flooding events with gauges, as he thinks it is important to track the number of events and the level of flooding. President Lemajic suggested that he confer with Dale Morris to find out what kind of measuring is being done.

4. Zoning - President Lemajic committed to coordinating with Mr. Bishop offline to share his Zoning folder so that Mr. Bishop can review all of the City agendas and minutes for salient points to report at future meetings. President Lemajic would like Mr. Bishop to give a regular 5-minute presentation on

what he is seeing and what he thinks is relevant to our neighborhood. Mr. Bishop said he reviewed the previous BZA meeting and the upcoming one, and neither one had anything in WT up for zoning review. He did note that the Union Pier input event is on September 29 from 11a-7p. Jacob Lindsey, who used to be in the City planning department, now lives on Ashley Avenue and is heading up the Union Pier development. Mr. Bishop will reach out to see if he is willing to come to a meeting and present to us.

5. Publicity/Membership - Ms. Bronneberg put in another plug for people to pay their $10 membership fee, either through Zelle or directly to Gail.

6. Oyster Roast - VP Nicholson said he is considering Rose Pavilion, Brittlebank Park, and other nearby options for the oyster roast location, but Rose Pavilion is his current favored option. He has talked to the City about submitting an event permit. He noted that we will have a lot more to do, regardless of location, because there was a lot in place at Lowndes Grove (liquor permit, table/chair rentals, etc.) on which we will have to start from scratch. He said that we need to establish an Oyster Roast Committee and asked for any interested people to reach out to him. January 15 is the current date of consideration. He noted that Rose Pavilion caps at 450 people, but he will look into the wiggle room. He will also look into amplified music for the band, which is not usually allowed at Rose Pavilion but which may be allowed for us since it is our neighborhood. We already have Crazy Dutchman catering in place. VP Nicholson will reach out to Ms. Cote to see if she can help connect us with good rental rates at Snyder.

NEW CONCERNS: Treasurer Thomas expressed concerns about the grates all over Grove Street for the drain work. President Lemajic said that he would get a representation from Charleston Water System to come back to the next meeting.

Treasurer Thomas moved to close the meeting, and VP Nicholson seconded. There was a unanimous vote to close the meeting. Meeting closed at 8:02 pm.

The next WTNA Meeting will be October 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Handy Contacts:

Wagenerterrace@wagenerterrace.org

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), personal #: 843-819-6619

Councilman Sakran (District 3) 843-819-0507

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: September 24, 2022