Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

March 21, 2022

Minutes

[Virtual Meeting via Google Meet]

WTNA website address: www.wagenerterrace.org

The March meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Petar Lemajic. He welcomed everyone and asked for any new meeting attendees to feel free to introduce themselves. Warren Miller introduced himself as a new attendee who lives on Darlington Ave. Carmen Gaston introduced herself as a longtime neighbor who has not attended a meeting in awhile. Dominique Godfrey also re-introduced herself as a neighbor who has not been to a meeting recently. Laura Clifton and Bob Freeman from Charleston Water Systems introduced themselves and said they were here to answer questions about the ongoing Grove St. project.

MINUTES: The previous month's minutes are posted on the WTNA website. Liz Bronneberg moved to approve the minutes from the January 2022 meeting as posted on the website. Gail Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

FINANCIALS: Gail Thomas reported that as of March 18, we have $9,063.91 in Checking and $17,507.44 in Savings. The Crazy Dutchman is holding $2,100 for next year's Oyster Roast.

PRESENTATIONS:

Bob Freeman, Project Manager and Project Engineer for Charleston Water System's Grove St. project, was present to give an update and answer questions. He said they are making good progress with construction. They have almost finished with the 12th St. intersection, and they have installed all the way to 11th St. They are continuing to make progress with the first section of water main being built. They have supplied lead samping kits to neighbors with frontage on Grove St., and they intend to do more sampling along Wagener Ave. when they get there. Tim Jarosch and Liz Bronneberg asked if the sampling had produced any data about lead in the water. Mr. Freeman said that 130ish sampling kits had been handed out, and they had received and analyzed 50 of them. He said there were a couple of lead detections, but they were very low and nothing above the EPA action limit. The lab sends results directly to the homes, so any residents with lead detected would have been notified. The EPA sampling protocol is to get a sample first thing in the morning so that the sample of water is what has been sitting in the service line. If there is lead present in the line, then it would leach into that idle water overnight. Mr. Freeman clarified that there has been no change of service to the new main and that once the new main is online, they will test it and then connect with that water main. The pre-sampling

was to get an idea of the current status of mains on the service side. The current water main went into service in 1922, and some of the records from those days are incomplete. Laura Clifton then clarified that the lead sampling results are related to the old service lines that exist on homeowner property rather than water coming from the plant. These lines on homeowner property are the responsibility of the homeowner. Mr. Jarosch asked whether there are any cost-sharing initiatives related to repairing private service lines, and Ms. Clifton referred him to Home Serve, which CWS partners with to offer homeowners an insurance program that will help pay for emergency water line repairs.

Carmen Gaston asked where to get a lead sampling kit, and Mr. Freeman explained that they have dropped all of the kits off directly to the affected homes, as they are currently only doing testing on Grove St. since homes on other streets are not affected by the work. Nancy Wilson asked whether the road striping that has been damaged or removed by the work would be replaced or repaired upon completion of the road work. Mr. Freeman confirmed that everything would go back as it was. They documented the way everything looked before they started the project, and their permit requires them to put all sharrows and other road striping back in the same or better condition. They are doing a temporary trench patch as they go, and towards the end of the project they will mill and overlay the road as required by their City permit, and all of the striping will be addressed.

POLICE/CITY COUNCIL/CITADEL: Lt. Dasher was present at the meeting. He said that they had gotten a couple of emails about a resident making threats to neighbors, and they are currently providing mental health resources to that resident. He said they are continuing proactive patrols in the area. Jarett Nicholson asked if there has been an uptick or decrease in neighborhood crime, and Lt. Dasher said there has been a decrease in violent crimes around the whole city and that property crime is consistently spread throughout the whole city. He said there continue to be issues related to thefts in unlocked vehicles but those incidences are decreasing. He said neighbors can email him with questions or concerns: dashert@charleston-sc.gov.

There were no other questions for Lt. Dasher. No one from the Citadel was present, nor were Councilmen Sakran and Gregorie.

NEW BUSINESS/LOCAL ISSUES: No new business or local issues.

COMMITTEES:

1. Yard of the Month - Amanda Gurski reported that Bradley Thompson, head of the YOM Committee, is moving out of the neighborhood. She said he has lived on upper Darlington for several years and had a baby girl last fall, and they were unable to find a roomier house to buy in the neighborhood, so they are moving to Avondale. She will try to get the YOM records from him so that we can avoid repeat winners. The current YOM procedure has been that Mr. Thompson picks a yard that looks good, knocks on the door of the winner and talks to the homeowner, and if they say yes to the honor, he puts the YOM sign in their yard until the next

meeting. Gail Thomas requested that Mr. Thompson give the hole diggers back, as they were originally donated by another neighbor. WTNA is now looking for someone new to lead this committee. This month's Yard of the Month is 42 6th Avenue. Congratulations to Rob and Keri Concannon!

2. Sunshine - We still need a head for this committee. This would be a neighbor who sends cards and well wishes to neighbors when they experience a birth, death, or sickness.

3. Zoning - President Lemajic said that James Bishop has agreed to help develop standards for this committee. He suggested that Ms. Gaston talk with Mr. Bishop if she is interested in assisting. They agreed to talk offline.

4. Environment - Mr. Jarosch is interested in working on this committee. He said he can provide more information on lead sampling and what the numbers might mean. President Lemajic asked that he come back next month to discuss things further.

5. Publicity - Nothing to report for this committee.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT:

Warren Miller was present to request support for his permit request. He has lived on Darlington Ave for 2 years. His growing family is running low on space in their 1500sf home, and they are looking to expand their house. They are looking to do a 2nd story bump-up of the back third of the house, which would allow them to add one bedroom upstairs, and the front master bedroom would then become a dining room. They have plenty of space at the south and rear setbacks, but they only have 5.5 ft on the north setback, which is below the requirement, so they need a variance. They have collected support from their neighbors on the south side. The north side is not owner-occupied, but the long-time tenants of that home have signed a letter of support as well. Since the house was built in 1935, Mr. Bishop asked whether he had gotten clarity on whether the City will let him destroy the roof. Mr. Miller said that it just requires staff review, and they support it thus far. He said a previous owner started renovation in the past, so it no longer has a historic roof. Mr. Miller stated that they will remain consistent in terms of aesthetics. He noted that there are two houses down the street which have the same kind of bump-up, and their plans are consistent with other houses on the street. Jeffery Montgomery made a motion that the WTNA write a letter of support for Mr. Miller's variance request. Ms. Gaston seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Miller thanked everyone for the support. President Lemajic said he will reach out to Mr. Bishop and Ms. Gaston about the wording of the letter of support, and then they will send it to the City.

NEW CONCERNS:

Dominique Godfrey said that she has lived on St. Margaret St. for 10 years and has 2 children at James Simons Montessori School, which is the elementary/middle school that our neighborhood is zoned for. She said the school has many children below the poverty line, and

the Friends of James Simons are raising money to support the school. They are currently trying to improve the playground. There is a new student in preschool who is significantly handicapped and is wheelchair-bound, but there is currently no equipment that is accessible to him. They want to put in a new play structure, including a merry-go-round that is at ground level, and an accessible greenhouse with children's garden equipment. Ms. Godfrey said that someone within the Charleston County School District is helping them write a grant request for the funds, and she thinks the total price of the playground is $12,148. Ms. Gaston suggested that she also reach out to the North Central Neighborhood Association since the school sits in their neighborhood. President Lemajic asked what kind of monetary support she is looking for. Ms. Godfrey did not have a specific amount in mind but noted that the play structure is $6,500. Secretary Thomas said that all of our money is allocated this year until June when we write a new budget, but we do have some discretionary funds. President Lemajic suggested that Ms. Godfrey bring a more specific request to next month's meeting for a discussion and vote. Ms. Gurski asked how individuals can support the effort, and Ms. Godfrey said that anyone can donate on their www.friendsofjamessimons.org website and there is also a Spring Fundraiser on April 22 at Redux Contemporary Art Center.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

VP Nicholson said that he is still working on finding a place for us to have in-person meetings. Greater St. Luke AME Church is still not accepting anyone, and Bright City Church is booked every day and cannot accommodate us. He is trying to work with Kelly at Lowndes Grove to see if they will accept us, but he thinks there is a reluctance to guarantee us the 3rd Monday every month. He has not heard back from Florence Crittenton. He asked Ms. Godfrey if it would be possible to have meetings at James Simons, but she did not know. He will continue to explore options.

VP Nicholson moved to close the meeting, and Ms. Gaston seconded. There was a unanimous vote to close the meeting. Meeting closed at 8:08pm.

The next WTNA Meeting will be April 18, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Handy Contacts:

Wagenerterrace@wagenerterrace.org

www.wagenerterrace.org

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

Lowndes Grove MOD 843-708-4314

Councilman Gregorie 843-327-7900 (Mona Lisa)

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

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: March 30, 2022