Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

November 21, 2022

Minutes

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

WTNA website address: www.wagenerterrace.org

The November meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Petar Lemajic. We had several minutes of technical issues as we attempted to connect with the virtual participants. President Lemajic welcomed everyone and asked for new attendees to introduce themselves. Camila Romero Maya was attending her first meeting. She joined the neighborhood in late 2020 and is joining the Yard of the Month committee.

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

FINANCIALS: Treasurer Thomas reported that there is $7,665.81 in Checking and $22,508.82. in Savings. She has made one payment of $2,018.10 to Snyder for oyster roast-related rentals. She has made three deposits of $500 each from Hampton Park Dentistry, Monoc Law, and Bluetape Solutions. Ms. Bronneberg is expecting another $1500 in sponsorship funds. Charleston Parks Conservancy has not yet provided the invoice for the Rose Pavilion rental, and the Access Portable Toilets invoice should be coming soon. VP Jarett Nicholson said that he thinks the oyster roast expenses are around $18,000-19,000, and he is hoping that we will not have to use all of the sponsor funds.

Treasurer Thomas noted that we have 41 members now, and we need to pass a budget. She is trying to allot for 5 more trees in the tree program, and since we are not sure whether the City will end up moving forward with the program any time soon, she thinks an alternative is to provide $100 to people who want to circumvent the City and buy a tree themselves. The proposed budget has been posted to the WTNA website for three months, and Treasurer Thomas moved that the 2023 budget be passed as written and posted on the website. VP Nicholson seconded. There were 16 affirmative votes, and no nays, so the motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS: There were no presentations.

CITY COUNCIL/POLICE/CITADEL: Councilmen Sakran and Gregorie were not present, nor was Lt. Dasher. Ms. Bronneberg said there was no update from the Citadel, and they are winding down for the semester. Anna Lee McAllister asked about the housing on Dunneman Avenue by 8th Avenue, as she

thought it was supposed to be torn down but it now looks like repairs are being done. Ms. Bronneberg confirmed that they are now renovating and repairing that housing rather than demolishing it. President Lemajic asked that the Citadel representation come to the January WTNA meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/LOCAL ISSUES:

1. Andrea Grabman was present to discuss Slow Down for Students, which was an area-wide walk-in for students who live in the surrounding area and attend neighborhood schools. She said it was a way to bring awareness to motorists about the number of students who walk or ride their bikes to school. She said there was a meeting with parents at James Simons Montessori about traffic concerns, and there are 4 intersections they are most concerned about: Moultrie/Rutledge, Simons/Rutledge, Grove/King, and Moultrie/King. These intersections are where children are most frequently crossing the street in order to get to James Simons, Sundrops Montessori, Charleston Charter School of Math & Science, and Charleston Catholic. Children currently face unsafe conditions as they try to get to school, with a lot of near-misses and cars swerving around stopped school buses. Ms. Grabman noted that they tried to have as many families as possible walk in. The media became aware, and there were a couple of crews doing live reporting for the news. She hopes that it is the first of several walk-ins as they try to bring awareness to pedestrian safety concerns.

Secretary Nancy Wilson said that she attended the safer streets discussion hosted in October by Cm Sakran and attended by Sen. Klimpson, Rep. Gilliard, Cm Gregorie and Mitchell, SCDOT representatives, and representatives from the Charleston Police Department and the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. She shared that the Sheriff's Office disclosed that there are 93 schools in our county with school zones, and they only have 36 crossing guards. This is an open job position, and they are struggling to find people. At this meeting the various leaders agreed on collaborating to make some improvements happen, but Secretary Wilson noted that any changes have to be preceded by a traffic study. She said it seems likely that the eventual improvements at the Simons/Rutledge intersection will resemble that of the Brigade/Meeting intersection where there is a bumped out curb, a very visible crosswalk, and a light that flashes upon command rather than constantly. She also noted that Lt. Dasher said they would really pick up on traffic enforcement, and she expressed frustration that in the meeting he denied knowledge of an issue with speeding and general disregard by motorists of the school zones, despite the fact that we have discussed that with him in past WTNA meetings. She said that Cm Sakran noted in the meeting that there were more federal funds available to us from the Dept of Transportation, so now is a good time to try to get projects approved and completed.

Ms. Grabman said there was a traffic study that was published in 2018 that talked about traffic calming measures, but there is a lot of complexity because SCDOT owns the road. She said she agrees that the push right now is for bulb-out corners and increased signage. She expressed optimism because a day after the walk-in, there was a flashing speed display by Hampton Park, and she thinks that brings an additional level of awareness. She said there was a horrible accident last week where a school bus hit a car driven by an elderly person which then hit a van that was driving children to school. She hopes they are building good traction forward on this issue. Ms. Grabman noted that she is married to President Lemajic.

2. VP Nicholson gave the update that the developers who were present at our last meeting went before the Planning Commission and had their plans rejected. A large contingent of WT residents showed up to object. Mike Hilfer said that the Planning Commission said the project broke the record for most comment submissions. VP Nicholson and President Lemajic said that other neighborhoods have reached out for advice since we were successful at rejecting a development request.

3. Lyn Smith brought up that Dominion has trashed the trees again. She said that we have all complained about it, but she would like to know if there is anything we can actually do about it. One neighbor actually sat in the tree until they brought in an arborist to advise. Treasurer Thomas thinks we should consult Cm Sakran and Gregorie and pursue underground electrical lines.

COMMITTEES:

1. Yard of the Month: The December YOM winner is Joan and Chad McDonald at 188 St. Margaret Street. Joan grows everything from seed herself and plants seasonally. Treasurer Thomas said that in the future we need to take a picture of the yard when it is chosen.

2. Zoning: Neither James Bishop nor Carmen Gaston were present.

3. Environment: Tim Jarosch does not have any updates. President Lemajic said that Magnolia is trying to meet with us to discuss their plans. He wants to meet with them with the WTNA Board present rather than meeting alone.

4. Publicity/Membership: No updates.

5. Oyster Roast: The Oyster Roast is on January 15, 2023 from noon-4 at the Rose Pavilion. The planning has been a lot more work since it is not at Lowndes Grove this year. Mr. Hilfer says that tickets are ready to go live on December 1. They are going to be $50 for adults presale and $55 at the gate. Tickets for children ages 6-12 will be $20, and seniors age 65 and above will cost $40. The prices had to be raised due to the costs associated with the venue change. Charleston City Paper will sell the tickets online, and in-person tickets can be purchased from Moes and Park and Grove. Ms. Bronneberg said that we will be recognizing Patrick Properties as a sponsor due to their donation, and the other sponsors are Hampton Park Dentistry, Monoc Law, Crosstown Express Golf Cart Service and Repair (AJ Pringle), Bluetape Solutions, and Marshall Walker. She said that she and Mr. Hilfer went to several other businesses to see if they would be sponsors and got a lot of No's, and she thinks it is just because the economy is tough right now. She hopes to get more sponsors next year. VP Nicholson said the last big push is to get the liquor license, which he is working on. He said we will need 15 volunteers for set up, breakdown, tickets/registration, etc. It will be a 2-hour working window, and the volunteer gets free admission for the rest of the event. He said we will do a big push at the oyster roast to try to get more WTNA members. He said that we are getting plenty of oysters, pulled pork, BBQ, slaw, and other sides. Treasurer Thomas said that she still has wristbands, tickets, and other supplies left from last year. Mr. Hilfer thinks we may need one entrance wristband and one liquor wristband. Lynn McCollum-Lasher thinks we should get a QR code to scan for people to pay their membership fee because it makes the process so easy. President Lemajic will coordinate with Ms. McCollum-Lasher to create the QR code.

PERMITS/GROWTH MANAGEMENT: None.

NEW CONCERNS: President Lemajic asked Mr. Jarosch to invite Charleston Water Systems to come to January's meeting to discuss project updates and the condition of the roads. Mrs. Smith expressed interest in hearing from Dale Morris, Resiliency Director, about flooding and the wall. Mr. Jarosch said he does not think there are any new updates on the wall, but he will contact Mr. Morris about coming to the February meeting. VP Nicholson said the Oyster Roast Committee has another meeting on Monday, and it will be our last meeting before tickets go live.

Treasurer Thomas moved to end the meeting, and Ms. Bronneberg seconded. There was a unanimous vote to close the meeting. Meeting closed at 7:51 pm.

The next WTNA Meeting will be January 16, 2023 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: December 1, 2022