SECTOR 1
Neighborhood Association President Meeting, July 29, 2022

Neighborhood Representatives in attendance:

- East Central, Elizabeth Jenkins
- Hampton Park Terrace, Anne Kelley Russell
- Rosemont, Nancy Button
- Wagener Terrace, Petar Lemajic
- Westside, Audrey Lisbon

City Staff in attendance: Mayor John Tecklenburg, Lt. Tim Dasher (Team 2), Dan Riccio (Livability), Becca Hopkins (Business & Neighborhood Services), Charlton Brownell (Business & Neighborhood Services)

East Central, Elizabeth Jenkins	
Q1	There has been news that Pete Buttigieg has allocated money for neighborhoods that have been destroyed by interstates. If it is true, please look into that so we can apply for that grant. We would like to have better lighting. Before we can get the Lowline, we need lighting. The officers go under the interstate and sit in the dark, which is very dangerous.
Mayor's Response	*We have tried in the past to get Dominion to put lighting under there, without success.* *We're applied for a DOT grant called a RAISE grant. We had a meeting with Secretary Buttigieg's staff by Zoom last week. I met with Congressman Clyburn when in Washington last week to advocate and ask for his support. They let DOT staff know that the Congressman is very interested in us getting this grant for $7 million dollars. We hope to hear next month. This grant is intended to do the rest of the engagement for the Lowline process and help with the environmental mitigation necessary to make the park safe for pedestrians.* *8/18/22 update: We received the RAISE grant, which will help with the engagement component and environmental mitigation for the Lowline. The Lowline is intended to improve the entire area, and lighting will be an important part of that.*
Parks Department	When the new bridge was built, DOT severed a bunch of conduits. All the old work is destroyed. To replace it would be very expensive. We had a small section put in as a test on wooden poles. We will look to see if there is funding for more lighting.
Neighborhood Services Response	I spoke with Ms. Jenkins after City staff were informed that we received the RAISE grant. She reiterated strongly that the community has been asking for lighting for years and feels that the problem is an urgent safety issue. I will continue to check in with Parks and update Ms. Jenkins on any changes. I am also in communication with Kaylan Koszela in the Mayor's Office and Chloe Stuber in the Planning Division to advocate for this issue.

Q2	Can we lean on developers more to improve the neighborhood? The new apartments between Romney, Nassau and Conroy have done some beautification around the building but not nearby.
Mayor's Response	*Only to a certain degree. We can only require them to make changes to their own properties. We do have some funds available for the sidewalk across the street from the development you're referring to.*
Planning, Preservation & Sustainability Response	All new developments are required to upgrade the street infrastructure directly around them. All the new developments coming into that area will be doing that. If you have specific questions about this, you can contact Christopher Morgan at morganc@charleston-sc.gov or 843-724-3774.
Q3	My street (Cedar St) is the only street in East Central that is a state street. A few years ago, SCDOT wanted to give you guys some streets back. The concern was that the City would have to take on the maintenance. Does the TIF cover Cedar St.? Is it possible to try get Cedar St. into the City? I ask because we are having more traffic, more walkers and we don't have sidewalks. Is there any way we could put white lines on the side of the street for pedestrians on all the streets in the neighborhood? There are a lot of restaurants, which are bringing walkers, who aren't being safe.
Traffic & Transportation Response	The City is currently evaluating the request to take over maintenance of Cedar Street. There are significant long-term costs that must be considered, and multiple departments must provide feedback as part of this evaluation. However, we expect an answer to this question in September. Regardless of the maintenance entity (City of State), white lines painted on the street to separate walkers from vehicles would not be permitted because of vehicle and pedestrian separation requirements. The City will evaluate Cedar Street as part of our annual requests to Charleston County for pedestrian and bicycle improvement funding through the Transportation Sales Tax Allocation process. The next opportunity for submittals to Charleston County is January 2023. Regarding current maintenance of roads within East Central, other state-maintained streets adjacent to Cedar Street include North Hanover Street, North Nassau Street, Cool Blow Street, Conroy Street, and Romney Street.
Neighborhood Services Response	If you have specific requests for SCDOT, I can help with putting in those work orders.
Q4	Thank you to Livability for being very helpful. We finally got the dumpster encased and cleaned up at 616 Meeting St. Would it be possible for the City to create and distribute a "Rules of the Road" packet for restaurants and businesses, so they know the rules of doing business?
Business & Neighborhood Services Response	Business & Neighborhood Services provides this type of information online (https://charleston-sc.gov/2459/Central-Business-District-Resources) and via flyer for businesses in the Central Business District. Most of it does apply city-wide, but we'd be happy to investigate developing a more generalized resource.

Hampton Park Terrace, Anne Kelley Russell	
Q1	We have fewer than 300 homes. We're all residential and 1 church. We're more focused on having connections. We had applied for an event with a street closure and the fee was prohibitive, as was the off-duty police requirement.
Mayor's Response	*I absolutely agree with you. We increased the fees for street blocking because construction companies were putting dumpsters in the public right-of-way, inconveniencing the public and taking up City resources without paying adequate fees. However, the unintended impact of this was to make it cost-prohibitive for nonprofits and neighborhood groups. We changed the rules to make exceptions for neighborhood groups and nonprofits.*
Livability Response	I believe your request was for 250 people, which automatically bumps you into a higher cost bracket.
Q2	Trash collection has been unreliable recently.
Mayor's Response	*We're really lacking with the bulk trash right now. We've been behind for 6 weeks or more. We have been contracting with vendors to pick up extra routes. We have four drivers on medical leave. Just being down those four drivers has been a huge impact. Yesterday four more drivers called in sick. We are trying to hire CDL drivers, sweepers, etc. I'm sorry that the service hasn't been great. We are doing our best to address it. I talk to the Director of Environmental Services almost every day. We hope by the second week of August between some new hires and the return of our FMLA staff, that we will get caught up.*

Rosemont, Nancy Button	
Q1	I would like to thank Al Ashby in Livability, Lt. Dasher of the CPD, and Mayor Tecklenburg for all their work for Rosemont. I would like to present Mayor Tecklenburg with a certificate of appreciation for attending our community reunion.

Wagener Terrace, Petar Lemajic	
Q1	Flooding is the main concern. We have been working with Dale Morris, who has kept us updated.
Stormwater Response	We put together this list for Cm. Sakran about work in his district (this encompasses more than Wagener Terrace but all improvements will help in the neighborhood). 1. Rutledge Avenue (SCDOT) – Cleaned pipe from Poplar St to Grove St. Included all curb inlets at Poplar, Simons, Gordon, St. Margaret, and Grove St. (Contracted) 2. Grove Street – Pipe repair for corner parking lot at Grove St and Rutledge Ave 3. Grove Street – Cleaned pipe to outfall 4. King Street (SCDOT) – Cleaned pipe in front of Food Lion from Poinsett St to Grove St 5. Piedmont – Simons – Cleaned outfall ditch adjacent to Greater St. Luke AME Church. Added to mid term work plan to obtain permit to grade further. 6. 10th Avenue – Investigated outfall ditch. Added to mid-term work plan to obtain permit regarding outfall ditch toward river. 7. 10th Avenue – Cleaned pipe from W Poplar St to Hester St to Alberta Ave to 10th Avenue outfall. Raised three manholes in W Poplar that had been paved over. 8. Piedmont Ave – Cleaned pipe from Maple St to Peachtree St to outfall. 9. Peachtree St – Investigated outfall and determined outfall is lower than outfall ditch. Added to mid-term work plan to obtain permit to regrade ditch to Ashley River 10. Sans Souci St – Cleaned pipe from Mount Pleasant St, N. Enston Ave, Sans Souci St, King St to Romney St. 11. King/Huger St Ph 1 complete (improvement of collection pipe system at intersection and repair of surface drainage patterns at intersection. 12. King/Huger St Ph 2 design and permitting ongoing for construction of pump station to drain intersection during storm events.
Q2	Dominion Energy's tree trimming has been very concerning to us, and there's a lot of misinformation out there about the process.
Neighborhood Services Response	What's the best way for me to communicate information about Dominion to you? Dominion hosts information sessions that seem to really help people to feel more comfortable with the process, but they rarely get more than a handful of attendees.
Q2, Continued	We would request that Dominion come speak to us at our neighborhood association. There are so many competing meetings that people don't want to attend another.
Q3	We are concerned about the unhoused individuals in our community. Lt. Dasher has been very helpful. He connects those folks with mental health care.
Housing & Community Development Response	We appreciate your concern about unhoused individuals facing mental health challenges in our community. Lt. Dasher has been a wonderful partner to us and often accompanies our outreach specialist Mariquetta Barnett in visiting unhoused individuals and attempting to connect them to resources. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of mental health providers and resources in

	the Tri-county area. Many agencies and nonprofit partners are feeling the effects of this. The Department of Mental Health has been a long-time partner with the City, and we continue to collaborate with them to find ways to address this issue. We utilize the Tricounty Crisis Stabilization Center when beds are available as well as the Charleston-Dorchester's 24/7 mobile crisis line for mental health emergencies. We also provide folks with information about the new very accessible 988 lifeline: https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/988-fact-sheet.pdf. Additionally, the City has just opened its resource center, The Hope Center, at 529 Meeting St., where a full-time social worker is on staff. We will continue to work with community partners to discuss ways we can support this vulnerable population.
Q4	Long-term residents are getting priced out of the neighborhood. We'd like to know more about housing resources and possibly have some speakers to the association meetings.
Housing & Community Development Response	Housing affordability is a growing challenge in Charleston and many cities around the country. In Charleston, our City Plan found the need for an additional 16,351 affordable units to address affordability gaps by the year 2030. As such, the creation and preservation of affordable housing is a priority for the City of Charleston. The Department of Housing and Community Development operates a home rehabilitation program that provides financial assistance to qualifying low and moderate income homeowners: https://www.charleston-sc.gov/241/Homeowner-Rehabilitation. The Department also partners with non-profit organizations Charleston Habitat for Humanity, Palmetto CAP, and Operation Home to support qualifying homeowners with needed repairs. The Department also helps to facilitate the creation of new affordable housing. Utilizing a combination of funding sources, the City provides gap financing to enable affordable housing developments, and also acquires land for the purposes of building new affordable housing. The City recently launched an affordable housing dashboard that shows all the existing and proposed affordable housing developments: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/357b5d4150db47f486de4914476cc079. In addition, the Department also partners with organizations who provide a variety of housing resources, including financial counseling, fair housing, legal services, rental assistance, and more. Organizations include Charleston Area Urban League, Palmetto CAP, Humanities Foundation, Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services, and others. If residents are facing specific housing challenges, we encourage them to either reach out directly to these organizations or contact Department staff who can assist in directing them to the appropriate organization.

Westside, Audrey Lisbon	
Q1	Flooding is a concern for us as well. I'm trying to talk to people to let them know that flooding fixes take time. I have been working to make sure our meetings are informative about City services, among other topics.
Mayor's Response	*The Fishburne tunnel system will be operational this Fall. It will drain up President St. and Ashley Avenue. It doesn't impact Hagood, and the tidal water that comes and goes over there. But rainwater will drain better up and down the Septima P. Clark Parkway. What will help with the tides will be the pumps, which will come in the next year.*
Q2	There's hardly any staff at the Arthur W. Christopher Community Center. We would like to see more programming there and in our parks. On that note, we are having a back-to-school cookout on August 13, 2022 at Harmon Field Park.
Recreation Department Response	At the time of the meeting, Recreation was finishing up seasonal summer camps with summer staff. At that time (the beginning of August) we had 1 full time manager, 1 part time specialist and a custodian at the Arthur W. Christopher Community Center. We are accepting applications for two full time positions and four part time positions. In the meantime, we are partnering with groups for programming and classes. The fall calendar begins in mid-August.
Q3	I would like to get to know all the neighborhood presidents. Can we have an event with all of them?
Neighborhood Services Response	We are working on an end-of-year event with all the presidents. Stay tuned for more details!