Wagener Terrace Neighborhood Association

May 16, 2022

Minutes

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

WTNA website address: www.wagenerterrace.org

The May meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Petar Lemajic. He welcomed everyone to WTNA's first hybrid meeting, our first in-person meeting in 2 years, and our first meeting at our new location at Parkside Church. He asked for any new meeting attendees to feel free to introduce themselves. Jim Wigley introduced himself again. He has lived at Grove and 5th for 35-40 years, but this was his first meeting in awhile. No other new or returning members identified themselves.

MINUTES: The previous month's minutes are posted on the WTNA website. Liz Bronneberg moved to approve the minutes from the April 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 $5,000 went back from Checking to Savings, so we now have $3,563.91 in Checking and $22,507.52 in Savings. She is working on a budget for the next meeting. If you want input or have priorities you would like us to consider, she requests that you please bring it to the next meeting.

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

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Daniel Flessas, with City of Charleston Emergency Management, was present to talk about Hurricane Preparedness. He introduced Shannon Whitehead, a new EM staff member. He showed a powerpoint presentation (https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_p6kEzbMBkjYXxv1wJqVaZo-JhMlCqn6/edit#slide=id.p1) where he discussed possible storm impacts (flooding, winds, downed limbs) and the history of tropical cyclones and rainfall events in our area during hurricane season from 2011-2021. We experienced the "1,000 Year Flood" in 2015, Hurricane Matthew in 2016 which produced 100,000 cubic yards of debris as a Category 1 storm, Hurricane Irma in 2017 which produced a 4-foot storm surge here even though it primarily hit Florida, Hurricane Florence in 2018 which mostly missed us but had devastating impacts in North Carolina, Hurricane Dorian in 2019

which produced 200,000 cubic yards of debris and heavy rain as a Category 1 storm, and Hurricane Isaias in 2020.

If the Governor issues an evacuation order, Mr. Flessas encouraged everyone to evacuate for four important reasons: 1. Hurricanes create destructive situations - storm surge, deadly hurricane-force winds, tornadoes which spin off of hurricanes, and flooding rainfall. Texas got 50 inches of rain during one storm, which resulted in hundreds of thousands of people needing to be emergently evacuated. 2. Do not put yourself or your family in the situation of needing an emergency evacuation, which is dangerous for both you and the emergency personnel who would have to risk their safety to help you. 3. Hurricanes that threatened but missed Charleston resulted in devastation and rescues elsewhere. 4. A few miles can make a devastating difference. With Hurricane Hugo, Charleston winds were around 85mph, but Sullivan's Island had winds over 130 mph.

Mr. Flessas urged everyone to prepare for Hurricane Season by: 1. Planning your potential evacuation destinations now. Have an idea of where you might want to go, depending on which direction the storm is coming from. 2. Using your Hurricane Preparedness guide, which can be found online and has a lot of valuable information with different useful resources (Hurricane Preparedness Guide and South Carolina Hurricane Guide). 3. Stocking your emergency kit now, to include batteries, toiletries, non-perishable food, etc. It is best not to wait until a storm is coming, as that is often a time of panic-buying and supplies may be out of stock. 4. Being aware of your shelter and transportation options. 5. Staying informed with official forecasts through local media, national weather sources, and relevant apps, including Charleston County EMD, FEMA, SC Emergency Manager, and Charleston County Citizens Alert. 6. Being prepared to go when the Governor issues an evacuation order. If you have a car, do not wait to get fuel. You can make the personal decision to leave earlier or at times that would have less traffic, but avoid delaying a decision.

Visit the City of Charleston Emergency Management website for more information: Hurricane Information | Charleston, SC - Official Website

2. Dale Morris, the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Charleston, gave a presentation (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CtvuW3VcM7SFsAZoMunNoVLYEGSzg8IE/view) on the City's ongoing projects. He talked about the close link between Resilience and Emergency Management and how if you do more to prepare and improve resilience, then there is less burden on the Emergency Management team when a storm actually comes. He showed a model of the peninsula if we were to experience NOAA Category 3 storm surge, and the entire peninsula would be under water. In "high" parts of the peninsula it may only be 6-10 inches, but in some areas of the peninsula there would be up to 10 feet of water. This reality is why the Army Corps has been involved, and this is why they did a Vulnerability Analysis in 2019 and 2020 to evaluate what storm surge would do. They determined that 99% of residential properties on the peninsula would be at risk from surge, 90% of commercial properties would be at risk, and 100% of critical peninsula roads would be inaccessible during a surge event. He said that we get hit about every 30 years by a storm. There was a 10-foot surge with Hugo, but

it missed us - there was a 20-foot surge in McClellanville. It could be really devastating if/when this happens again.

Mr. Morris said that the City has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers in a Feasibility Study about how to mitigate risk, which they would recommend doing by constructing a surge structure around the peninsula. This structure has not been designed, so no one knows what it would look like or where exactly it would go - that is part of what is determined in the Feasibility Study. It would be a $1.1b project, with the federal government paying 65% and the City paying 35%. It would be an 8-mile long surge structure that is 12 ft NAVD 88 around the peninsula, which means that the height above your head would be dependent on the elevation of where you are on the peninsula - so it may be 8 feet above your head by Broad and Lockwood but 4 feet above your head near the Eastside. Mr. Morris said that this project would be a combination of T-Wall, Combo Wall, and nonstructural solutions. There would be 10 pumps to manage any water that made it over the wall. There are other elements that they are still discussing with the Army Corps, including the number of closure structures, living shorelines, and alignment/realignment. He said that the Chief of Engineers of the Army Corps is still reviewing, and if he signs off, then the City and Army Corps may then negotiate a design agreement, which would lead to the Design Phase. That Phase would then take at least 4 years. Mr. Morris emphasized that there are a lot of people working to improve processes based on the Army Corps' 2021 statement: "The overarching need before us to figure out how to discover, preserve, expand, and apply nature's value."

Mr. Morris then gave updates on several ongoing projects. He said that the Spring-Fishburne drainage project is in the 4th of 5 phases of the $240m project. They are building deep tunnels and drop shafts. They are building a gravity outfall that will push water out into the harbor using a pump. He said that the gravity part should work this year, and the pump contractors are under contract and should complete their part in 2024. He said that the King-Huger project will increase conveyance and water storage capacity in that area's sub-basin. They will be building a pump system that will push water out towards Newmarket Creek. Phase 1 is the conveyance and storage, and Phase 2 is the pump station. He then let us know that the Low Battery Rehabilitation is in the 3rd of 4 stages. They are repairing, rehabilitating, and increasing the height of the low Battery, which should help mitigate flooding during the highest tides.

Mr. Morris informed us that the City of Charleston is in a pilot project with FEMA, Deltares, and the US Department of Homeland Security to develop a Community Flood Resilience Support System tool, which would put together the Super-Fast Inundation of Coasts model and the Delft Flood Impact Assessment Tool to create a quick tool using open source data that would provide flood hazard modeling and impact assessment decision support. It would give users an idea of benefits and risks of different mitigation ideas and would help enhance understanding of how to address future vulnerabilities. The model would help a user understand what would happen in different areas depending on varying levels of tide or surge and then would extrapolate what would happen in those areas if you utilized different mitigation measures. It would help citizens to become part of the planning process. The City of Charleston is helping to pilot this project,

which will conclude Phase 1 at the end of June, but in Phase 2 and 3 it would become publicly available to cities across the US.

Mr. Morris said that since the Dutch Dialogues team recommended that we develop a Comprehensive Integrated Water Plan for the entire city, not just the peninsula, they wrote a procurement that was released in March and closed on May 5, and they are now reviewing the proposals. This effort is going to give us a plan for near- and long-term water management, protection, and adaptation. It is going to help City Council and City staff plan, prioritize, manage, and adapt to current and future flood risks across all city neighborhoods, main drainage basins, and floodplains. Mr. Morris said they hope to start work in July, and it will likely take about 15 months.

3. Mike Saia, the Public Information Administrator with Charleston Water Systems, was present to talk about water service lines (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1thyB6iVFSaUN4-cF7derbeL2h8zXKc7R/edit). CWS has been mandated by the EPA to identify the materials used in service lines on both sides of the water meter for every customer. They must be in compliance by 2024. They currently have 13,000 service lines of which they are unsure of the materials, as well as 115,000 service lines on the customer side that they have not yet identified. He wanted to let us know that we would be seeing them as they walk around to identify the line materials. They will probably make holes on each side of the meter to evaluate the lines. They are starting this work downtown, and for some homes built before 1932, the service lines may be made of lead. Over the next 10 years, they want to replace all lead lines. They will notify us if they find a line made of lead, and if the line is on our side of the meter, then it will be our responsibility to replace it. They will give us testing kits and filters. If lead is on both sides, we will be asked to participate in a free lead sampling program. Mr. Saia emphasized that even if there is a lead line, the water is still safe because they began a treatment process in 1994 which uses orthophosphate and pH control to prohibit/inhibit lead leaching from pipes into the water. If you have questions about whether you have a lead service line or about the lead testing program, Mr. Saia asks that you call the Customer Service line at (843)727-6800.

4. A representative from Compass Collegiate Academy, a new charter school on 35 Race Street, came to make sure we are aware that they are an option for neighborhood schooling. The school is adding a grade each year until they are K-8, so this year they have kindergarten and first grade, and next year they will be adding second grade. They are building a rigorous program that is geared towards college preparation, and their testing scores have already skyrocketed since the school started. The school is very diverse and adheres to an emotional and social curriculum that helps students become well-rounded. They teach in small groups and with personalized learning experiences. They are looking to enroll more students, and since it is a free, public school, students can attend while living in any local county. She encouraged interested persons to look at the website (Compass Collegiate Academy) and reach out if you are interested in a tour.

NEW BUSINESS: President Lemajic explained that the WTNA Charter is written to alternate 2-year terms for Board members and Board Officers. The Board members are up for election for the 2022-2024 term. He asked for nominations this month so that we can vote next month. Our current Board members are Tyler Hueter, Anna Lee Turner, Susan Cale, and Jeanie Knowlton. He opened the floor to nominations. Treasurer Thomas nominated Ms. Cale, Ms. Knowlton, and Mr. Hueter. Secretary Nancy Wilson seconded. Treasurer Thomas then nominated Ms. Turner. Ms. Bronneburg seconded. VP Jarett Nicholson nominated Mike Hilfer. Treasurer Thomas seconded. There were no other nominations.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Membership - Ms. Bronneberg volunteered in the April meeting to lead membership efforts, and she has been looking at ways to make it easier to pay the membership fee. She looked at electronic payment options, including Venmo, PayPal, Zelle, and others. She concluded that it would be easiest to start with Zelle. Payment could then be done through emails, and it would not need to be connected with anyone's phone numbers. There is a $500 limit, but it is free with no fees. VP Nicholson, Secretary Wilson, and Ms. Cale spoke in favor, as it would likely be beneficial for increasing membership. Amanda Gurski said that whoever is controlling the account needs to be very careful about not accidentally transferring money since it is unrecoverable. President Lemajic suggested that we work on setting it up before the next meeting, and Ms. Bronneberg agreed.

2. Zoning - President Lemajic said that James Bishop and Carmen Gaston are keen on setting some BAR expectations and standards for our neighborhood, but they were unable to attend this meeting, so we will table that discussion until next month.

3. President Lemajic thanked VP Nicholson for finding our new meeting place at Parkside Church. Treasurer Thomas noted that the WTNA budget allotted money for Greater St. Luke as our former meeting place, but we now have $600 that we did not pay to them since we have not been meeting there. Ms. Bronneberg moved that we pay Parkside Church $50 each month we meet here for as long as we meet here. VP Nicholson seconded. There was a unanimous vote in favor of this change.

4. Yard of the Month - VP Nicholson has volunteered to dig the sign holes. Treasurer Thomas asked Susan Wigley and Ms. Cale to coordinate with her to decide on a house each month.

5. Sunshine - We are still looking for someone who can lead this committee. It would be a good position for someone who has lived in the neighborhood for awhile and knows people.

6. Environment - Tim Jarosch will be meeting with Dale Morris on Thursday at noon and asked that anyone reach out to him if they have questions they would like him to ask. He has also been emailing with Councilman Jason Sakran about issues in our district. He said anyone can reach out to him with questions about lead sampling.

7. Publicity - Ms. Bronneberg said she is now active on the WTNA facebook page. She said a new WTNA flyer is almost completed, and she will coordinate with Secretary Wilson and Ms. Gurski to restart distribution of reusable bags to new neighbors. She said she would like a wagenerterrace.org email address and thinks that anyone on a Committee should also have a branded email address so that she can start publicizing those email addresses for people to be able to directly contact the relevant person with questions or concerns.

8. Growth Management - Nothing to note.

NEW CONCERNS: Treasurer Thomas would like the City to be on the forefront of trying to reduce the use of gas garden tools. She said items like gas mowers and gas blowers pollute even more than cars. She is concerned about the particulates they release into the air. She would like for us to start having the conversation with Councilman Sakran and the City. Currently the City vehicles are also a problem, as they are left idling in Hampton Park and on the city streets. Mr. Jarosch says that some towns have limits on commercial use of certain items but not the same limits on personal use. This issue will be tabled for future discussion.

VP Nicholson moved to end the meeting, and Ms. Cale seconded. There was a unanimous vote to close the meeting. Meeting closed at 8:03 pm.

The next WTNA Meeting will be June 20, 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: May 20, 2022