

Minutes
Meeting of the Shandon Neighborhood Council
July 13, 2010 at 6:15 p.m.
Emily Douglas Park

Those present: Edward Bender, Jesse Burke, Tushar Chikhliker, Caroline Clarkson, Tina Condari, Mary Greene, Jane Key, Tracy McKelvey, Carla Moore, John Myrick, Jennifer O'Neill, Ed Pope, Set Rose, Julie Ruff, Terry Sharpe, Emerson Smith

Welcome/Introductions

Recognition of Guests – Tina Condari

Mayor Steve Benjamin said he was excited to attend his first SNC meeting as Mayor. While in office, he plans to focus on job creation, safe neighborhoods, and high quality of life. He hopes to challenge people to see how great the city is. There was a wonderful meeting of the midlands mayors today.

Councilwomen Belinda Gergel stated it is a pleasure and honor to represent this area. She said she tries to communicate in a paperless fashion. Go to BelindaGergel.com if you did not receive e-blast today. August 5, special session with leadership training on how city government works.

Captain Derrick Thorton (head of the South region – from Rosewood Drive to Woodcreek Farms 20.6 square miles) and Officer Baire – Columbia City Police, crimes of opportunity are currently up in our area. Be as vigilant as possible, take extra time to put items in trunks or out of cars. They are trying to catch a group of people for break-ins, plain clothes policeman are currently being used to help catch the criminals. Jaimie, a woman who lives at Wilmot and Ott, said the woman behind her on Ott had an attempted break-in. If someone is caught doing a break-in 3 times, it becomes a larceny. If anything is disturbed in your car, contact the police. Captain Thorton's contact information is 737-5882(office), 315-6013(cell), e-mail dathornton@columbiasc.net. Tim Baire patrols this immediate area. The largest problem in this area is property crime. 1 burglary in 4 weeks at 2019 Heyward Street, other crimes are auto break-ins. Encouraged people to call police if you see anything suspicious. Typically cars are broken into at night. Homes are usually broken into during the day. Lights that stay on are not as good as motion lights since they create shadows where people can hide. Jane Key thanked police for keeping Five Points safe after the Gamecocks won the World Series.

Mr. Larry McCall, Planning for the City of Columbia. Property Maintenance – sub-standard housing – not many calls from the Shandon area. Call his office if you have neighbor concerns.

Mrs. Hall has worked with Emerson with overgrown vegetation on corners. She has worked with Carla on ideas for honorarium for Mayor Coble.

Reports

Minutes – Caroline Clarkson

Tushar motioned and Emerson seconded the approval of the Minutes from the SNC meeting held May 11, 2010.

Treasurer's Report – Jane Key

Jane presented the current Financial Statement. Jane explained where money comes from ~ the Turkey Trot and the Home for the Holidays Tour. We received a grant from the City. The big ticket items are the newsletter – done 4 times a year. It was asked if we could be delivered by hand, but we currently get a bulk rate.

Newsletter – Julie Ruff

Julie had extra copies for people if they did not receive them. She asked people for article ideas and recipes. Julie is trying to get them out on the quarter. The next edition will go to print mid September for the October newsletter.

Historic Designation/Community Character Overlay – Carla Moore

On June 2nd City Council voted unanimously for Community Overlay for Shandon. We are now protected by that on a permanent basis. Tina thanked Carla for her leadership in this as did Belinda Gergel.

Turkey Trot – Tushar Chikhliker/Edward Bender

The race will be on November 20, 2010. Hopefully it will be a bigger race this year. Media blitz will begin in the fall.

Website – Terry Sharpe/Jennifer O'Neill

Terry and Jennifer could not come to the meeting. Jessie reported for Terry. The annual hosting charge which includes monthly update charge is \$600. To change the name would be a one time cost of \$150. We still own SimplyShandon for 2 or 3 more years. It would automatically direct them to new site. It was suggested we have this discussion via e-mail.

Homes for the Holiday Tour -

The first meeting will be soon. Mary received a check from the 2009 Tour today. The tour will be the first Sunday in December.

Old Business

Richland County Grant – Tina Cundari

We received a grant for \$750 for the newsletter and signs before meetings.

Coble Honorarium – Carla, Tushar, Julie

We would like to keep this as a surprise for Mayor Coble. The city has granite benches that they already own they offered to us. Council would pay to have two sand blasted for the two parks. We would invite neighbors and the Mayor for a surprise unveiling in Autumn. It was discussed putting these benches under mature trees. Motion to not exceed cost of etching to not exceed \$300 was by Carla and seconded by Edward.

Sims Park – Jesse Burke

Jesse got a contractor to give an estimate of roughly \$50,000 for new equipment. Currently AT&T has offered \$4,000. Emerson and Jesse are still negotiating for a larger amount. Julie Ruff reminded Jesse that since it is a City Park, purchasing must go through the city bids. Belinda Gergel asked Jesse and Tina to formulate a letter to AT&T asking for timeline and plans. There will not be a tower put on the property.

Overgrown brush at intersections – Emerson Smith and Jesse Burke

Emerson Smith said 4 intersections have been noted with overgrown vegetation. Letters were sent out to these homeowners. Out of the 4 intersections, one person at 100 Ott Street went and cut back bushes. An inspector went out and cut more. This is an education process. Cannon and South Ott, South Ravenel Cannon, Edward Court and Wheat Street, Susan Lake suggested we recognize the gentleman at 100 Ott Street who trimmed his bushes for the next newsletter.

Large red and green boxes parked in the street were investigated. One was found to not have a permit. Currently there are not restrictions for how long they can sit in a yard. You can have a permit to have it in the street, or you can put it in your yard. Emerson also mentioned speeding. Most of the speeders live in Shandon and most that do rolling stops, live in Shandon. Emerson suggested flagging down speeders and asking them to slow down.

Jane asked the update on intersection of Wilmot and Woodrow by Hand. John Myrick said he would check on that.

In the past we have given Hand a donation of \$250 for use of the auditorium for the March meeting. Caroline moved we pay the amount and Edward seconded. Tina suggested that next year we explore using Wesley Memorial for a free venue. The motion passed.

New Business

Traffic signs on Maple

Shelby lives on the corner of Duncan and Maple Street. Shelby would like to prohibit through traffic for trucks. Duncan and Maple is owned by the city. According to Belinda Gergel, the state owns 75% of the roads in the city. Mrs. Hall said a request has been turned in to change this into a no-through traffic street.

Flooding near Sims Park (David Myers)

Mr. Myers sent photographs to council today to show flooding. Currently there is a small wall. Mr. Myers would like the city to extend the wall and a cover.

Announcements

National Night Out - Julie Ruff

Baskin Robbins will serve 8 flavors of ice cream at the NNO. Jessie secured a donation of first 200 hotdogs from Old Timey Meat Market. Julie is going to try to get Pepsi and water donated. John is going to try to get a grill donated. All of the neighborhood council is asked to help. Fans have been ordered. Boomboxes would be good. A list of e-mails will be collected. The City will have a kick off the night before.

There will be discussion at City Council July 14 about consolidating the sheriff and police departments. Currently there is not a search in place for a City Police Chief.

August 5 from 3-5 anyone from Council can meet with Belinda Gergel at City Hall to discuss how the city runs.

Emerson welcomed a couple from Sedona, California.

Belinda invited people to a meeting about Hospitality Districts in the city on Thursday at 4:00 at Police Headquarters.

Open Discussion

Adjourn at 8:02 Edward motioned, Tushar seconded.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, September 14, at 6:15 (Sims Park)