

AGENDA
Meeting of the Shandon Neighborhood Council
November 9, 2010 at 6:15 p.m. (Emily Douglas Park)

- I. Welcome and Introduction of Council Members
Those in attendance: Edward Bender, Jesse Burke, Caroline Clarkson, Tina Cundari, Mary Greene, Jane Key, Carla Moore, Tracy McKelvey, John Myrick, Ed Pope, Julie Ruff, Terry Sharpe, Emerson Smith
Those absent: Tushar Chikhiliker, Jennifer O'Neill, Seth Rose

- II. Recognition of Speakers
 - A. Gary Watts, coroner
His Richland County office handles every death that occurs in Richland County within 24 hours. The cause and manner of death is determined. Richland County has a medical examiner. The coroner's office does not do anything with funeral homes: it is an investigative office. Most people in his office come from law enforcement. A final death certificate is needed by a family to handle a lot with insurance and funerals. Care team members are assigned to families to help if needed after the death. The floor was opened to questions. Richland County uses private labs for toxicology screens. It is currently less expensive to send out than to purchase equipment.

 - B. Nancy McCormick, Accessibility to Emily Douglas Park
Asking neighbors to encourage the city to ensure this park is accessible to the disabled.

- III. Reports
 - A. Minutes – Caroline Clarkson
Jane made a motion to accept the minutes; Mary seconded; the minutes were approved unanimously.

 - B. Treasurer's Report – Jane Key
We have \$6,784.67 cash on hand.

 - C. Safety (Hospitality Task Force) – Capt. Thornton
Officer Baire – On October 31, a drunk young man went in a house he thought was his friend's to sleep on Terrace Way. He went in an unsecured door, found a bed and passed out. An arrest was made. Since Sept. 27, there have been 2 burglaries and 2 auto break-ins in the neighborhood. Bonham Street – door kicked in nothing taken. Blossom Street – possible unsecured house – took ipod, tools, and clothing. Auto break-in at night on Blossom probably unsecured car – ipod taken. Auto at 2311 Wilmot – probably unsecured vehicle, nothing taken.

An intoxicated young lady was robbed on foot while walking home from Five Points at the corner of Wheat and Harden. The burglar was not armed.

Captain Thornton discussed Five Points. He talked about patrolling Shandon, Martin L. King, Wheeler Hill, and University Hill. The crime in Five Points does affect our neighborhood because people walk home to our neighborhood. With holidays coming, they are going to try to keep down crime. Four additional officers will be assigned during the day. At night there will be five additional officers assigned to shopping areas.

Don't put boxes for flat screens in the trash. Alex Sharpe will be taking Captain Thornton's office for 6 months, while he is in Washington for training. Officer Thornton will be back in Columbia in June.

Officer Sharpe grew up in Heathwood. In department for 22 years. Very familiar with the area. gasharp@columbiasc.net 737-5884 429-8298(cell)

Tina mentioned Hospitality Task-Force. Looking at Open Container, closing time of bars. Tina encouraged people to e-mail anyone on council with ideas.

The ixle Officer Thornton for his assistance over the years.

- D. Newsletter – Julie Ruff
 - a. Middle of December is the next deadline
 - b. There was a misprint of a recipe in the last news letter.

 - E. Website – Terry Sharpe and Jennifer O'Neill
Shandonneighborhood.org will be new address. Old address will still work.

 - F. Turkey Trot – Edward Bender
Next Saturday at 8:00. 4K and 8 K. Great group of sponsors. Number of participants increases every day. Edward asked for people to volunteer to cheer on and guide people on the course. Intersection sign up list is available. Proceeds will go to Shandon Beautification projects.

 - G. Homes for the Holidays Tour – Mary Greene and Caroline Clarkson
Seven houses plus Rosewood Baptist Church will be on the tour. Ticket sales will begin November 15. Let Mary, Julie or Caroline know if you would like to be a docent. Piggly Wiggly is the primary sponsor.
- IV. Old Business
- A. Columbia Green Grant – Denice Degenhart & Beverly Hamilton
Tina spoke for Denise and Beverly. They got \$2,500 from Columbia Green for beautification.

- B. Sims Park – Jim Lamey, Gail Nash, Jesse Burke, and John Myrick
Tina gave background information. Ms. Nash came to SNC about 2 years ago with an easement agreement. Ms. Nash went back to AT&T to work out what was best for the neighborhood. Initially AT&T requested 1000 feet of space in Sims Park, now 550 feet. There were going to install a chain link fence around the area, now they agreed to a wooden fence. Initially no money was going to be given for beautification, but AT&T now is offering \$4,000. The city recently sent a copy of the easement to Tina Cundari. Mr. Lamey brought up concerns. City Council has not brought this up yet for a vote. The city wants to know what we think. When initially proposed, we did not have enough information. Either Tina or a member of SNC will go to City Council with idea of what Council believes when it comes up at the meeting.
Mr. Lamey had several hard copies of what was sent out via e-mail prior to the meeting.
The easement is for an area in the park. There is currently equipment outside of the easement.
People asked what the fuel storage area is for. Per Ms. Nash, it is for emergencies only to put in the generator.
Mr. Laney, a Wheat Street resident, appreciates that Shandon is a densely populated neighborhood with fantastic public spaces. The two small parks serve approximately 2000 houses. We have small yards, but two great public space parks. When he first heard of the easement, he thought it was a good thing, but when he thought about gains to neighborhood and compared it to what the utility would get, he feels it is lopsided. He sees the easement as incompatible with a park. The language in the easement gives no restriction to the type of equipment or size of equipment. He would like to challenge AT&T to find a better location. He feels it would be better with a commercial landowner on Rosewood or Devine. There were no provisions listed as to what would happen to the land if AT&T no longer uses the equipment.
A woman spoke about the size of the park affected.
The immediate neighbors met with John Myrick on Sunday. Ms. Lucy Gordan spoke for the immediate neighbors and presented a printed handout of concerns. First concern is for safety. Neighbors have done many things to make it safe there – took out brush and continuously call for lights. It will be an eyesore for anyone going by, there are other places in the park that would not be less of an eyesore. It was believed that there will be people who break into the fenced area at night and possibly during the day. We do not know the use that AT&T would have for the equipment. It was asked why they choose this location. It is in the correct “sector” that serves between 400 and 500 houses. The replacement box would replace the 30 year old box. The city is a service provider – water and sewer, they try to treat other service providers equally. Mrs. Nash feels that the only other location would be in someone else’s yard. Mrs. Nash said that AT&T said the area behind the park building would not

work. A neighborhood member suggested to Ms. Nash that AT&T needed to convince the neighbors that this is the only location or we will contact City Council members and say no. There are no other parks in the city that are being asked to give up land.

There were no representatives of AT&T in attendance.

An architect spoke about the vagueness of the easement as is. He mentioned the type of generator that could be used. This easement gives them the right to include a permanent generator. In the absence of height restriction, it should say that there should not be a tower. At the very least change the language to block certain items.

Another neighbor suggested AT&T lease the land rather than simply get it. Ms. Nash said the reason this easement is being considered because they currently have a box. Mrs. Nash said the easement could still be changed to address the height and change the concerns.

Ms. Gordan said the fence to conceal the area, opens concerns for safety. A woman also discussed the safety for the After School program at the park.

Evans Johnson, former security officer for Verizon Center at the Mall, said he had safety and security concerns about this location. He feels this would open this area as a target for security risks.

Tina summarized the discussion. The current form of this easement is problematic. Tina proposed we oppose a current easement as currently written. Edward seconded. It was unanimously voted by the Council. There was a quorum available.

It was asked if a timeline was in place. Ms. Nash said no. This would be an ordinance not on the consent agenda. Ms. Nash said if we vote no, they can go directly go to City Council with out our support.

Carla thanked Ms. Nash for coming tonight and addressing the concerns of the neighborhood.

V. New Business

- A. Elect person to fill Seth Rose's seat
Nominations will be accepted at the January meeting. Tina expressed thanks to Seth for his service on the Council.
- B. St. Patrick's Day Celebration – oversight committee
Edward Bender and Julie Ruff will go to the meeting at City Hall on November 23 at 10:00.

VI. Open Discussion

- A. It was asked what the status of playground equipment for Emily Douglas Park. The Asst. City Manager was willing to look at vendors. It was suggested that someone

from the City could come to the January Meeting. We could also discuss accessibility issues.

Nancy McCormick – Accessibility in Emily Douglas Park

VII. Adjourn at 7:52.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 6:15 p.m., Sims Park