

Shandon Neighborhood Council
Agenda
Monday, November 12 at 6:15 p.m. (Emily Douglas Park)

I. Welcome and Introduction of Council Members.

Those in Attendance: Derek Gruner, Jason Bobertz, Julie Ruff, Carla Moore, Tina Cundari, Jesse Burke, Mary Greene, Charles Appleby, Daniel Coble, Caroline Clarkson, Jane Key

Those Absent: Betsy Beach, Ron Burns, Ryan Causey.

Simba the Dog was recognized by the Council. He had been nicknamed the “Shandon Wanderer.” Chasing Tails Pet Patrol helped rehabilitate him, and many neighbors contributed to his medical care. SNC gave him a gift of toys and dog treats. Simba is currently looking for a home.

II. Safety Report – City of Columbia Police Officers.

In September there were several auto break-ins in the neighborhood. Officer Broder cautioned neighbors to be aware there may be an increase in attempted crimes during the holidays. Officer Broder reminded residents that police will do free security surveys for your home to help you identify weak spots.

There was a question from a neighbor about a break in on Monroe with shots being fired. There appears to be some suspicion about whether construction workers were responsible.

Capt. Sharp spoke and indicated police have made some arrests involving auto break-ins, but owners have not reported their property stolen. He stated it is harder for police to make a case and harder to return stolen property if no reports are made. He requested that neighbors report all such crimes, even if the only thing taken from your car was spare change.

Residents were reminded that they can make an online report of a theft through the City website.

Capt. Sharpe stated police will increase patrols starting on Black Friday. This will be in neighborhoods and in commercial/shopping districts.

A neighbor complimented officers who recently responded to an auto break in at the Capitol Senior Center.

III. Recognize Elected Officials in Attendance.

Councilman Rose spoke concerning the recent election problems. He emphasized that Richland County Council does not appoint the election commissioner, as the commissioner is appointed by the Legislative Delegation.

Councilman Rose explained that the Election Commission and Voter Registration Offices merged this year. Funding for the new office totaled \$400,000 more than for the previous election. This was a formula dictated by State Law, and not a County Council decision.

Several neighbors relayed stories of problems they encountered on election day, including problems with absentee ballots, long lines, and other issues.

Neighbors were encouraged to contact their representatives and the other members of the Richland County Delegation about the issue. Councilman Rose stated his cell phone is 361-2360, if you would like to contact him.

IV. SNC Reports.

A. Minutes – Jason Bobertz. Minutes from the September 9, 2012, meeting were approved.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Jane Key. Cash on hand totals \$13,886.14, with \$2,475 received and \$1,749.55 paid since the last meeting. Jane stated she asked another Council Member, Daniel Coble, to examine the financial accounts for the Council, and Daniel reported no problems.

C. Newsletter – Julie Ruff. Next newsletter will be sent out the first week of January. The edition will go to Print December 1.

D. Turkey Trot – Charles Appleby and Ryan Causey. Preparation is going well. The race is set for Saturday November 17 at 8 am at Hand Middle School. Registration for the race is at StrictlyRunnining.com. There are 95 runners currently, and there are usually a lot of late sign ups. There is

a 4k fun run, 8k run. Neighbors will receive a flyer letting them know about the race and the route. Volunteers are still needed.

E. Homes for the Holidays Tour – Mary Greene, Caroline Clarkson, Julie Ruff. Tour is set for Sunday, December 2 from 2 pm to 6 pm. Currently, six houses and the Doors of Sims Alley are set for the tour. St. John's Episcopal Church also participating.

Tickets can be picked up at a variety of locations. Tickets are \$15 ahead of time, \$20 the day of the event. Docents are still needed. Docents work a shift of 2 hours, and receive a free ticket for the other two hours and an invitation to the after party.

V. Old Business.

A. Update of Traffic Studies. – David Brewer, City of Columbia Traffic Engineering. Mr. Brewer stated twenty-five traffic counts and speed surveys were performed based on problems identified by neighbors. He presented a traffic proposal, which calls for numerous additional 4 way stops in the neighborhood. The proposal is open to change after neighbors have a chance to review it. Some of the changes will have to go to City Council for approval, others need State Department of Transportation approval.

Neighbors were asked to examine the map and make suggestions.

There were some complaints about the placement of two of the speed cables, because they were too close to stop signs or too close to sharp curves on the road.

There followed detailed discussion about specific intersections, and numerous suggestions from neighbors about specific spots where neighbors believe traffic issues exist.

Mr. Brewer also told neighbors that, if there are sightline problems caused by vegetation, the City's Forestry and Beautification Division can be contacted and the city will have someone contact the property owner to cut the vegetation back. <http://www.columbiasc.net/forestry>, or (803) 545-3860.

Neighbors were also reminded that, if speed limits are reduced, signs must be posted at every entrance to the neighborhood where the new speed is lower.

B. Increased Lighting in Shandon – David Brewer. City Council has approved the installation of new street lights. SCE&G will begin installation soon. Lights will be installed on existing poles where previously shown on the map, as approved by SNC. Maps are available for neighbor review.

Derek Gruner- There is an update on the drainage issues, and a representative would like to come back in January to meet with SNC. The design for the improvements will go out for bids in January. Roads will be narrowed in some areas.

VI. New Business. Carla Moore. Carla stated the SNC is in very good shape financially, and is interested in several projects in the neighborhood.

A. Signage for Neighborhood. Daniel Coble volunteered to examine possibility of adding signage to recognize the neighborhood. The City will assist in determining where signs may be added.

B. Little Free Library. Project would add a lending library that looks like a birdhouse. It can be installed in a public park, and neighbors could come to check out books. Similar libraries are in place in Asheville. The case cost approximately \$300-\$400, and would be a do it yourself type of project.

There was also some discussion about a neighborhood Christmas tree and a tree lighting every year. The tree could be placed at the corner of Heyward and Harden in the open space. Preliminary estimate for costs is around \$1,000. We are not currently sure whether electricity is available. There was some discussion about a joint project with Hollywood Rose Hill since the spot is on the border of both neighborhoods.

VII. Open Discussion and Announcements.

A. Vacancy on SNC. Annie Caggiano is leaving SNC. There is one meeting left before the Annual Meeting in March, so we are going to wait and vote on the position in March, since the SNC could have additional vacancies, and there are several interested candidates.

Several Veterans were recognized for their service.

VIII. Adjourn