

Minutes
Shandon Neighborhood Council
Monday, May 14 at 6:15 p.m. (Sims Park)

I. Welcome and Introduction of Council Members-

Those in Attendance: Tina Cundari, Annie Caggiano, Carla Moore, Jason Bobertz, Jesse Burke, Ron Burns, Ryan Causey, Derek Gruner, Jane Key, Julie Ruff, Caroline Clarkson, Charles Appleby, Betsy Beach, Mary Greene.

Those Absent: No Members were absent.

II. Special Presentation to City of Columbia K-9 Department

Polly Thompson organized a project to obtain bullet proof vests for K-9 Officers. They raised \$1,100 for vests, \$400 over the goal.

Officers brought three dogs to the meeting. One new dog will receive his vest next week, and they thanked the neighborhood for its support. All dogs will receive vests by the end of May.

III. Safety Report – City of Columbia Police Officers

Lt. Morgan – four AC Flora students were arrested for burglaries as a result of a crime stopper tip. There were break-ins in other counties as well. Auto break-ins have been reduced after the arrests.

There was a question from a neighbor about cars being “egged.” Lt. Morgan states no one has reported it to CPD.

No crime statistics were available. Officers asked residents to report anything suspicious.

There was a question about a break-in on Wheat Street and another on Heyward Street, with front or back doors kicked in. Lt. Morgan stated an arrest was made on the Heyward Street Break in.

Lt. Morgan announced his retirement and indicated this was would his last neighborhood meeting. Officer Broder will be the new PACE officer for the neighborhood.

IV. Reports

A. Minutes – Jason Bobertz – Minutes of the March 12, 2012, meeting were approved.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Jane Key – Checks of \$2,365.84 have been paid, and \$3,634.00 in deposits have been made. Cash on hand is \$11,866.17. Recent expenses have been dog vests donation and the Easter Egg hunt.

C. Newsletter – Julie Ruff – Spring newsletter out 6 weeks ago. Extra copies are available. Next newsletter will be mailed the first week in July.

There is currently a “Fill up the Red Truck” pet food drive, at the corner of Heyward and Holly Streets. Fliers will be put in mailboxes this week. 1,982 lbs of dog food have been donated over the years.

D. Communication – Tina Cundari and Carla Moore – Update on web site redesign. www.shandonneighborhood.org or .com. Agendas and other information are always on there, as well as contact information for members, Yard of month designation, flooding information. Please contact Tina about edits or information you would like to see.

council@shandonneighborhood.com is the email address for the council.

Tina outlined the costs of the new site. It was \$2000 to redesign, which was from scratch, \$22 to transfer the domain to Go Daddy, and \$20 a month in publishing fees, a savings from the former cost of \$50 per month. \$175 has been committed to pay for spring photos on the site.

A question was asked about how to nominate a yard for yard of the month. There is information on the site about it.

E. Easter Egg Hunt – Tina Cundari and Jason Bobertz – The hunt was a success, and thanks for everyone’s help.

F. National Night Out – Ron Burns – The event is moving to Emily Douglas for this year, and is scheduled for August 7. Many of the same activities as last year are planned. Please let Council know if there are any other ideas.

G. Turkey Trot – Charles Appleby – No updates, but it is scheduled the weekend before Thanksgiving, and members will be looking for sponsorships starting next week.

H. Home for the Holidays Tour – Mary Greene, Caroline Clarkson , Julie Ruff – Five houses have signed up so far for the tour, which is scheduled for December 2. Advertisers are needed. Seth Rose has volunteered his house. Council received thank you notes from the schools, and schools reported they sent students on field trips and were able to purchase cameras with the donations.

V. Old Business

A. Shandon Flood Pilot Program Update – Derek Gruner. Pockets of flooding have been studied. Fuss and O’Neil was engaged to come up with a project that is cheaper than what was previously discussed. There are plans to do pervious asphalt paving, which allows percolation, and to include more grass in certain areas. Focus is on

Intersections, not necessarily in backyards. The design is for handling a 10-years storm. This is a \$2.5 million project, and it is more environmentally friendly and much cheaper. Engineer Betsy Kammerlin has been in touch with the City. It is expected that \$1 million is likely to be approved shortly, and there will be work underway for an East study area, but some blending may occur in other areas before the end of the year.

Tina Cundari indicated the study is on the website under the News and Events section. The plan is an effort to address problems upstream so the water won't travel downstream.

B. Emily Douglas Dog Park – Nancy Freeman and Elisabeth Taylor – The master plan for the Park was presented and it includes a dog park. Mr. Campbell, of the Parks and Recreation Department, stated the Department is ready to move forward. Dog owners are the most frequent visitors to the park, and there is a general feeling that a dog park builds community. The park is planned for west of building, far from playground, in a fenced-in area. Plats were handed out, as was a budget.

This is a lower cost, and there less concrete than before which will help flooding. Funding may come from many sources, including individuals, with the city likely making a future request for help from the Council.

Revised cost from Ken Simmons and Assoc., down to either \$6,625 or \$7,625. A set of steps proposed previously has been eliminated to lower the cost. Signage costs were also lowered.

There was a question from a neighbor to define what a dog park is. Mr. Campbell replied that it is a gated area for the dogs open all the time, and where dogs do not have to be leashed.

There was also a question about whether a dog park was a good idea because other parks need refurbishing for children.

Carla Moore stated this was part of a master plan, city wide, and a steering committee will look at the parks. Carla has told the director of the Parks and Recreation Department that Sims Park needs upgrades.

Mr. Campbell stated this is the final change for Emily Douglas. There will be new equipment for Sims in the next couple of years. Parks and Recreation is creating a five year plan for the parks, and there is room for improvement at all 54 parks, as some in very bad shape. A consulting group was brought in for master plan creation.

Sims Park Issues

A neighbor who lives across the street had questions about possible changes to the basketball court at Sims Park. He suggested a goal be lowered 8 feet. He stated he is selling his house because the basketball court is an attractive nuisance with profanity, which he claimed is not being addressed by the city or the Parks and Recreation

Department. He expressed concern about maintenance and liability costs associated with a dog park.

One neighbor thinks the dog park will make the park safer. She stated there used to be homeless people living in Emily Douglas, but they moved out when “dog people” started meeting there in the mornings. She also opined it was attractive for newcomers to have dog parks in the neighborhood.

Mr. Campbell stated the City of Columbia is responsible for enforcing ordinances. Parks and Recreation and CPD have put up signs about the issue. He encouraged the neighbor to report the problem to the CPD and let them enforce city ordinances. He also stated that, if the community does not want the basketball court, Parks and Recreation can remove it.

Jesse Burke suggested that lowering one basket to 8 feet would stop the full court games, which seem to be the biggest problem.

Mr. Campbell asked the council about whether it was satisfied with not having a separate area for smaller dogs within the park. He also stated donations could be made to the Columbia Parks and Recreation Foundation. PO Box 573, Columbia, SC 29209.

It was announced that a Funding Committee of the Council has been formed which will meet and provide a recommendation, similar to how Council handled the Emily Douglas playground equipment.

There were questions about liability and about rules. A number of neighbors spoke favorably about the fact that neighbors have been good at self-policing dog owners who do not act appropriately.

Mr. Campbell stated the city has liability insurance.

A vote was called, and the Council voted unanimously in favor of supporting the construction of a dog Park at Emily Douglas.

VI. New Business

A. Speed limit in neighborhood – Interest in working to have speed limit lowered. Currently it is 30 mph and 25 mph mixed.

Jesse Burke– The majority of roads are 30 mph, some posted 25, but county maps are inconsistent. Hollywood Rose Hill, are almost all 25 mph. In Rosewood, most are 25 mph. He suggested that the Council formally request that the speed limit be reduced to 25 mph throughout the neighborhood. Some roads are owned/maintained by different entities, such as the city, county, or state.

There followed a spirited discussion about the issue. Questions about whether neighbors can make a difference by policing ourselves. There were also complaints about lack of enforcement and concerns about the cost of signage and the impact it would have on the neighborhood to place numerous signs to change the speed limits.

A motion was made to formally request that the speed limits in Shandon all be reduced to 25 mph. The motion was seconded, but it did not carry.

Officer Fisher, a PACE officer filling in, stated lowering the limit to 25 mph could be helpful because it might lower the tolerance level for speeders. He will ask the traffic sergeant to do a study on how fast people are driving in the neighborhood.

It was suggested that feedback be provided at the next meeting in July.

Carla Moore suggests that neighbors call the City and ask for specific help. Any further discussion was tabled to the July Meeting

B. Moryah Jackson – Has announced she is running for School Board, at large seat. She is seeking support from Neighborhood Associations.

VII. Open Discussion and Announcements – The Neighbor who lives across from Sims Park wants to know how to properly ask the Council to request that the full court basketball court be removed from the park. There was discussion about turning it into a tennis court. The previous problems at Emily Douglas, where the court was removed, were also discussed.

It was suggested that the matter be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

VIII. Adjourn

**Next SNC meeting – Monday July 9
Location: Emily Douglas Park.**

Upcoming Neighborhood Events:

“Fill Up the Red Truck” Pet Food and Supply Drive – May 19 and 20 (corner of Holly and Heyward)

Family Movie Nights at Emily Douglas - June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, and October 5

National Night Out – August 7 at Emily Douglas Park

Turkey Trot – November 17

Home for the Holidays Tour – December 2