

Shandon Neighborhood Council
Agenda
Monday, January 14, 2013 (Sims Park)

I. Welcome and Introduction of Council Members.

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

Those Absent: Ryan Causey.

Shandon Walking Club - Helen Foley spoke and asked other neighbors who exercise to form a partnership for walking in the neighborhood. Helen has spoken with a few neighbors who are already interested, and they held a meeting yesterday. Helen would like organize the groups of walkers in several groups, such as slow, fast, and medium pace.

Palmetto Health Baptist will perform an initial evaluation for those interested. Helen will answer any questions by email if you have any.

II. Safety Report – City of Columbia Police Officers. Officer Broder noted there exists an online mapping system to help research crime in the City. This is a free website, and it also available for other cities and for the USC campus. Victims' names will not be included, and specific addresses will not be listed. <http://www.raidsonline.com/?address=Columbia%20SC>

Officer Broder stated the Columbia PD remains available to perform home checks for crime vulnerability. Neighbors can call 454-3500 and ask for the Crime Prevention Unit. Also, he asked that neighbors continue to report suspicious activity. There were some burglary incidents near Beltline Blvd., and because a neighbor called and reported something suspicious, the CPD was able to apprehend the burglars.

A neighbor commented that she heard a group of "Gypsies" had returned to another nearby neighborhood, but Officer Broder is not sure about any details.

A neighbor complained about cars parking on the street in front of her house. Officer Broder stated there are no assigned street spaces in Shandon, and he suggested speaking with neighbors and getting to know them better when these situations arise. The same neighbor asked about getting signs indicating “reserved parking.”

Another neighbor indicated she was late because someone parked in her driveway and she could not get out. Officer Broder stated neighbors can call the CPD, and an officer will respond and run the tag number and determine whose car it is. The car can be towed. Please call 252-2911, which is the non-emergency number you can use in such a situation.

A Council Member asked how many days a car has to be in one place before it can be considered abandoned. Officer Broder was not certain, but police can place a sticker on the back of the car to let the owner know he or she needs to remove the automobile, and to determine whether the owner knows his or her car is in place.

A neighbor stated he had a concrete sign stolen from his yard, and Officer Broder located the sign for him. He thanked the officer for his assistance. Another neighbor provided a tip.

Officer Broder’s contact number is 315-9143.

III. Recognize Elected Officials in Attendance.

Senator Courson stated the 120th General Assembly convened last week, with Sen. Courson acting as President Pro Tem. He thanked neighbors for their support in his reelection bid.

IV. SNC Reports.

A. Minutes – Jason Bobertz. Minutes from November 11, 2012, meeting were approved

B. Treasurer’s Report – Jane Key. Cash on hand totals \$10,846.98. Checks totaled \$4338.16, with deposits of \$1,299 since the last meeting. There is no final financial report yet for the Turkey Trot. Council is waiting on a check from Strictly running.

C. Newsletter – Julie Ruff. Winter newsletter is out. The next issue will be published the first week of April.

D. Turkey Trot – Charles Appleby and Ryan Causey. Over 200 runners participated this year. This was a very good turnout, and thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success.

E. Homes for the Holidays Tour – Mary Greene, Caroline Clarkson, Julie Ruff. The tour sold nearly 500 tickets. Checks will be distributed to schools at the Annual Meeting in March. We are currently looking for homes for the 2013 tour.

F. Easter Egg Hunt – Jason Bobertz. \$600 was requested and approved to fund the Easter Egg Hunt, which is scheduled for March 30 at Sims Park.

V. Old Business.

A. Discussion of Traffic Study Results. David Brewer appeared from the City. He stated the City performed a traffic study based on neighbors' requests for additional stop signs. Thirty individual traffic studies were performed.

Based on the study, ten new stop signs have been proposed. There followed a lengthy discussion about the traffic study and the proposed stop signs.

A neighbor complained that Duncan and Maple is a speed zone. The neighbor also expressed some confusion about whether stops are 2-way or 4-way. There was a request for a stop sign at the curve at Heyward and Holly because it is hard to see around the curve.

It was noted that Council has asked that the City examine lowering the speed limit in the neighborhood to 25 mph on all streets. Council also requested that bars be painted on the roadway to indicate where cars are required to stop at stop signs.

A neighbor states the sight lines are poor at Sims Alley and Wheat Street, but no stop sign is slated to be placed there. The neighbor thinks a sign should be considered. However, a council member stated there are no good

lines of sight there for a stop sign, and a median was placed there years ago to slow people down. One possible solution might be a speed hump.

There was frustration that the majority of problems seem to be with our own residents. A neighbor commented that stop signs were put in place to reduce traffic and stop “cut-throughs.” He wants more police traffic patrols.

A neighbor who lives at Blossom and Holly does not want a stop sign there because he believes it will result in increased noise.

Another neighbor agreed and stated there is confusion about whether stops are two way or four way, and that signs should be clearer. The neighbor worries adding more stop signs will create more confusion and there are already enough stop signs in his area.

A neighbor on Ott Street states there are a lot of speeders on Ott, including a three block stretch with no stop sign, and a lot of children walk down Ott. The neighbor wants consideration of a speed hump to slow down traffic.

A neighbor who moved in to the neighborhood in August asked about alternatives, like “SLOW” signs and yellow flashers. He complained about the blind spot on Heyward near Kilbourne for drivers making a right onto Kilbourne. Additionally, he stated there are no stop signs between Rosewood and Blossom, which means people drive fast on that stretch.

Another neighbor commented that Kilbourne was designed for fire trucks to use.

A neighbor concurred with some of the stop sign comments, and feels adding signs would be somewhat exclusive, like trying to put up gates. She questioned the need for a sign at Kiawah and Woodrow, as planned.

A council member reminded neighbors that there is a city ordinance governing sight lines. Those on corner lots need to be cautious about what they grow on the corners, because growth can block the line of sight for drivers.

A neighbor who states he has been a resident in Shandon for 70 years complained about the new signs, and says he is confused by them.

One neighbor opined that the Speed Study showed where the speeders are, and the stop signs are in places where speeds were high.

Another neighbor requested a stop sign at the corner of Wheat and Holly based on the traffic at the church. She stated she was hit once at that intersection because of poor sight lines, even though she was careful pulling out. David Brewer responded that the intersection has not been looked at, but will be examined.

A neighbor stated the stop sign at Wheat and Princess is run often, and opined that it is merely a nuisance stop sign.

One neighbor commented that people at the meeting were conscientious about traffic and obeying the law, but other neighbors were not. He encouraged residents to reach out to others and be more courteous.

A neighbor who lives near Burney and King complained about drivers who are causing problems late at night and who are drinking. She stated college students are causing problems and wants those neighbors to better abide by the current rules.

A large majority of neighbors indicated they support lowering the speed limit to 25 mph.

A neighbor commented that those driving home are speeding on the 2500 block of Monroe, especially over the hills. He opined that a speed hump at the top of the hill might solve the problem.

There followed a discussion about speed humps. There was some support and some opposition.

Another neighbor complained about a lack of enforcement of traffic rules and laws.

There was concern expressed about increased pollution and time spent at stop signs, and that drivers tend to race from stop sign to stop sign.

There was another question about "STOP" or "SLOW" signs written on the pavement. David Brewer stated such signs tend to slow down people for a while, but lose effectiveness over a large period of time.

Following a question about what steps may help with traffic safety, David Brewer stated four way stops do have the potential to help with traffic safety. However, there is racing between the signs, as drivers tend to try to make lost up time. He pointed out that drivers may also speed between speed humps if they are installed.

Given a choice, Mr. Brewer stated he would rather see speed humps.

A Council member commented that there was no real ability to gain consensus tonight, and she noted the normal way to request a stop sign was to address signs one at a time. The Council member also opined the best way to address the issue may be through a more comprehensive approach that is not as drastic as the installation of this many stop signs.

David Brewer commented that the City has a temporary speed hump that can be placed on a part of the street in the neighborhood.

A neighbor suggested any portion of the traffic study where the speeds were over 32 mph should be used as a benchmark to determine whether a new stop sign should be added.

A St. John's parishioner who drops off her kids near Wheat and Holly complained that the traffic is very dangerous there.

Duncan and Maple and Heyward and Holly were recommended as corners for stop signs by neighbors.

There was a request that Council vote on asking City to install the temporary speed hump at the 2400 Block of Monroe, neat the top of the Hill.

A motion was made for the Council to ask the City to install the temporary speed hump on the 2400 block of Monroe. The motion carried.

Another motion was made for the Council to ask the City to add a four way stop sign at Heyward and Holly. The motion carried.

Further action on the issue was tabled.

The President indicated there were two announcements. First, there is a Storm water meeting at Sims Park on February 11, 2013

Second, there is one vacancy on Council to be filled at the annual meeting in March.

B. Recommendations from Council on Additional Stop Signs. No further recommendations since discussion was tabled.

VI. New Business. Carla Moore.

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.

B. The Annual Meeting will be held on March 11 at Wesley Memorial UMC.

VIII. Adjourn.