**Shandon Neighborhood Council**

 **Meeting Minutes**

**November 11, 2013 at 6:15pm**

**Sims Park**

**Council Members**
Charles Appleby, Betsy Beach, Jason Bobertz, Jesse Burke, Ron Burns, Ryan Causey, Caroline Clarkson, Daniel Coble, Mary Greene, Jason Gruner, Ashley Gwin, Jane Key, Carla Moore, Andy Sholn, Polly Thompson

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Council Members**
2. **Safety Report – City of Columbia Police Officers**
3. **Officer Sharpe and Officer Roberts**

South Region: Five Points east to Garners Ferry Road, Forest Drive- to Percival and Decker, down to Bluff Road. South Region has gone down on all crime stats that are monitored by the city. Compared to

2012 violent crimes are down as well as property crimes. Partnered with neighborhoods, many arrests have been made as a result of calls from neighbors. Past 3 weeks: uptick in burglaries and car break-ins-most burglaries happen between 10 and 2pm. Holidays - additional 4 units riding neighborhoods and commercial districts. Officers have been dedicated to Rosewood, Devine, Millwood and Garners Ferry-during the day. Officer Roberts noted that most car break-ins occur in unlocked cars.

The Library (Bar) in Five Points is closing temporarily for personal/tax reasons

Open questions-

Break - in on Elm Ave in Rosewood - older 88 model mustang and 3 black males. Called in as a burglary but dispatched as a suspicious person by 911. COC filed a complaint.

Five Pts.-37 officers scheduled for 5pts this weekend-3 home games remain (10 officers are normally scheduled). Plus 10 officers on game night. 3 SLED officers (game nights only)

**B. 5Pts Association - Amy Beth Franks (Exec. Director of Five Points Association)**

200+ cameras in 5pts are working well to deter crime and apprehend offenders

A meeting was held the week of Nov 6, to discuss issues affecting Five Points and Shandon. The Five Points Association will continue to meet with surrounding neighborhoods. Live monitoring of cameras is being looked at. Daytime security is done by Tommy Brown. Also, COC Office Toll is patrolling Five Points businesses during the days. Crime is being exposed more than in the past by cameras and social media.

Open Questions:

Is there participation from bar owners? Franks: Good participation currently for the most part.

Is roping off the area a good plan? Franks: Not a good idea. It costs $55k to fence the neighborhood off, and there is not enough manpower to enforce the barriers. State streets require law change. Crimes often occur in surrounding neighborhoods, not in Five Points.

ABF: 5pts Association does not believe that 2:00am closing is effective. Huge crowds end up in the streets at 1:45 because all the bars are closing at the same time.

COC-Shuttle service (3 shuttles have been put in place) to take students back to USC.

**III. SNC Reports**

**A. Minutes** – Ashley Gwin - minutes accepted from

 **B. Treasurer’s Report – Jane Key.** Current Cash on Hand is $12,613.37. Check for 479.52 was to Charles Appleby

**C. Newsletter – Caroline Clarkson reporting for Julie**. Next deadline date-CC not sure.

**D. Communication** **Website – Charles Appleby**

. **Facebook – Carla Moore**

**E. Turkey Trot – Charles Appleby and Ashley Gwin**

**F. Home for the Holidays Tour – Mary Greene, Caroline Clarkson, Julie Ruff. Great Line-up!**  New things-noon at Dec 8th – pick up tickets at Hand – Food truck will be at Hand – portion of sales going to home tour. NiteCaps selling Holiday Tour drink afterwards. Restaurants will be providing samples at the houses. Edwin Watts Golf, Gibson, Just the Thing, Piggly Wiggly, Bilo. Homes for the Holidays Tour starts at 2 Dec 8th.

**G. Signage – Jesse Burke –** Sign toppers going into the neighborhood – Sample drawing provided by Velvetex. Cost for approx. 3 dozen sign toppers b/w $1000 and $1100. Donations for the signs were made by Moe Baddourah $500 and Kelly Hines (20/20 Vision) -$200. Individual Neighbors can order individual signs if they like. Who installs? Most likely the City. Councilman Baddourah said it most likely it’s a built in cost. Seth Rose will donate $200.

1. **Old Business – Tree Lighting –** Thursday Dec 5, 6:00. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served. Hand carolers. Some seating available. COC is donating the tree.
2. **New Business**
3. Zoning Request-3401 Rosewood Drive Zoning request for “rooming house” designation (zoning variance)

Jesse Burke discussed the Zoning and Ordinance. Currently the dwelling is zoned RG2 - medium to high-density housing. Behind it is RS3 lower-density. The owner had requested to get special exception to make it a congregate living facility. Jesse said the Shandon Neighborhood Council Zoning Committee recommends the Shandon Neighborhood Council vote against the Variance request.

Brian Cook-Zoning administrator: it is currently over occupied (more than 3); the owner can apply for a variance.

Board of Zoning Appeals - meeting tomorrow at City Hall at 10 am. Betsy recommends that all concerned citizens attend meeting. Owner must be able to prove he/she can **meets 8 criteria** outlined by the Zoning commission.

Criteria were provided by Brian Cook-

Vehicular and Pedestrian safety, Environmental Factors, Aesthetics, Public Safety/nuisance conditions, Concentration, Character, Compatible, Public Interest

K Brian Cook kbcook@columbiasc.net 803-545-3332

Questions: Penalty for code violation? No recourse if variance is approved.

Does current structure have to be brought to code if they get the special exception? Class RG2 with a special exception will require the owner to bring up to current building code.

Jesse Burke made a Motion to OPPOSE THE VARIANCE REQUESTING. The motion passes. He suggested a member of council should attend the BPZA meeting in person at the meeting (Mary Greene will attend).

A fraternity recently reinstated at USC is currently looking to set up a housing investment company to locate and obtain a piece of property to become an unofficial fraternity house.

Seth Rose asked if Brian Cooke could forward a letter from the Shandon Neigh Council opposing the exception. Mr. Cooke answered in the affirmative.

1. Nominations for Belinda Gergel Awards, Caroline Clarkson

Please contact Caroline Clarkson for nominations for the neighborhood service award. The award will be presented at annual neighborhood meeting (March)

1. **Open Discussions and Announcements**

Strong Mayor Forum-sponsored by SNC, HRH – potential date Nov 25

FEMA potential increase in flood insurance-public forums.

 Thursday, Nov. 21 6-8 PM, Eau Claire Print Building, 3907 Ensor Ave.

 Wed, December 4, 6-8 PM, Lourie Center, 1650 Park Circle

1. **Adjourn**

**Upcoming Neighborhood Council Meetings and Events:**

**January 13, Emily Douglas-**

**Tree Lighting Dec 5 Turkey Trot – Nov 23 Homes for Holiday Tour-Sun Dec 8**