Shandon Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2014

Emily Douglas Park

1. Welcome and Introduction of Council Members. Members present: Ron Burns, Deborah Thomas, Jane W. Key, Mary M. Greene, Derek Gruner, Caroline Clarkson, Jesse S. Burke, Kelly Hynes, George Crouch, Rachel Vail, Charles Appleby
2. Reports
3. Minutes from September 8th meeting were adopted
4. Treasurer’s report – Jane Key. 11/10/2014 Deposits – $1,210.00 Fall Newsletter $525.00, home tour 100.00, National Night out sponsorship $100.00, Sales from lighted Turkeys $485.00. Checks paid $2.025.49, printing for fall newsletter, $256.75 Charles Appleby (Cost of Turkeys that were sold for neighborhood project to support Turkey Trot) Cash on Hand as of 11/10/2014 -- $13, 948.70
5. Newsletter – Deadline for next mailing is December 10
6. Communication
   1. Website – Charles Appleby. Minutes for September meeting where posted. Information on Turkey Trot and sale of lighted turkeys is also available.
   2. Facebook – members continue to be added. Reminder that ads for individual businesses are not allowed on the Facebook page.
   3. Turkey Trot – Will be held November 22. Proposal made to modify the structure of the Turkey Trot and allow Strictly Running to operate the Turkey Trot on behalf of the Shandon Neighborhood Council. The proposal was unanimously adopted. Carolina Clarkson encouraged members of the neighborhood to turn out to cheer for the runners.
   4. Tour of Homes – The Tour will be December 7, 2014. There are 7 homes plus Dreher High School and a church. Four Restaurants will also be featured on the tour at the homes, as well a music and an artist.
   5. Tree Lighting – The neighborhood Tree lighting will be December 4 at 6:00 pm at the corner of Heyward and Harden Streets. The Hand Middle School chorus will perform. We need someone to act as Santa Claus if possible.
   6. Palmetto Trail – There is a new contact with the Palmetto Conservation League, Mary Rowe. She is a resident of Shandon. Jane Key also noted she will be rotating off the Council in March, and a new person from the Council needs to be assigned to this project.
7. Old Business
   * 1. By Laws – Charles Appleby. The revision process began in 2011. The changes must be voted on by council tonight, publicly posted and then a voted by all those present at the annual meeting in March for the changes to be adopted.

Charles thanked Councilmember Jesse Burke for his participation in reviewing and making suggested changes to the by-laws.

Updates and revisions attempt to put into the by-laws how council has operated in the past.

* + - Terms are limited to two 3 year terms (6 years)
    - Council members must live in the boundaries of the neighborhood
    - The council will consist of 8 to 15 members. If a quorum is present a simple majority is required of those present and voting for a motion to pass.

Copies have been distributed to council members and were available to the public at the meeting. They will also be published on the website.

Motion was made by Caroline Clarkson, seconded by Jane Key to adopt the recommendation and publish for consideration at the Annual meeting – unanimously adopted.

* + 1. Update on Tennis Court request
       1. Ron Burns reported Jeff Caton of the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Division doesn’t believe there is enough space for a tennis court at Sims park. Councilman Baddourah indicated P & R have been working on plans they would like to share at the January meeting to show the issues with site-ing the courts.

Jesse Burke inquired about the youth height basketball goal at Sims. Chairman Burns indicated he had communications from the City Parks and Recreation Division that the cost of a youth height goal that would withstand dunking is approxiamately $2400, as opposed to $800 for a standard goal.

1. Public Safety
   1. Officer Schmidt was on leave, Lt. Ron Felder, Executive Officer of the South region. Officer Felder did not have the crime stats since the last meeting, but indicated with the holidays approaching they typically see an increase in burglaries. The Police Department as committed overtime to residential neighborhood and business districts during this season for increase patrols, which have already begun.

In response to a question regarding persons going door to door in the neighborhood who may be posing as sales people but are casing homes for burglaries, Lt. Felder suggested calling the police if you are uncomfortable with their behaviors. Call 911 for emergencies. Officer Felder’s number is 803 413 8451.

1. New Business
   1. Emily Douglas Dog Park rules and discussion

After a recent incident at the dog park, the question of needing rules for the park arose. While the SNC raised the money for the dog park, the City of Columbia actually owns and maintains the park. Sample rules from other parks were distributed. Charles noted the Earlewood Park pays dues and sets rules, an option he would NOT recommend due to liability concerns. No action taken.

* 1. City C-3 zoning changes proposal discussion and vote

The City of Columbia is proposing a change to all C-3 zoning within the City to allow private student dormitories to be built in C-3 designated zoning areas. The proposal has already been approved by the City Planning Commission and will be considered on Tuesday, November 18 at the City Council meeting in a public hearing.

Council and Audience members expressed concerns about the possible density of such developments as well as the noise and traffic problems it could bring. This change could allow development in multiple C-3 locations, not just the proposed project at the corner of Gervais and Harden. Brian Cook from the city planning department addressed some of the concerns. Councilman Moe Baddourah is opposed to the changes and addressed his concerns. He urges council members and residents to express their concerns to the other members of city council prior to next week’s meeting.

MOTION: The SNC opposes the proposed amendment on C-3 property regarding private student dormitories. Motion made by Charles Appleby, seconded by Jesse Burke.

Motion carried with the only noted objection coming from George Crouch.

1. Guest Speakers, elected Officials.
   1. Councilman Moe Baddourah.
      1. Crime – The City has approved a new plan for blanket neighborhood watch programs if Shandon is interested in starting one.
      2. City is discussing having a 24 hour Bond court. He doesn’t think that is a good idea because it would not give victims and police officers enough time to prepare for the hearing
      3. City is also proposing an evening traffic court, which would alleviate having to take time off during the day to go to traffic court.
      4. City has a Gang Unit presentation that he would be happy to have the police department present at a future meeting.
      5. The playground equipment for Sims park is on order and should be installed in a few weeks.
2. Adjourned.