Shandon Neighborhood Council Meeting: September 10, 2018

Roll of Council Members: Lois Elijah, Buddy Atkins, Rich Horton, Tamra Paschal, John Meyers, George Crouch, Kelly Hynes, Russell Jones, Karen Addison, Bill McCormick, Michael Drennan, Steve Augustine, Joe Berry, Martha Johnson, Deborah Thomas.

Rick Todd was absent.

Quorum established.

In addition to the Council members present, there were approximately 30 neighborhood residents in attendance.

Agenda was approved by unanimous vote of those present.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved by unanimous vote of those present.

Elected Officials/Candidates for Office/Dignitaries: Dr. Patrice Green, the new principal at Hand Middle, spoke. She indicated that the school had 855 students and was fully staffed. She is looking forward to an exciting year at the school. Jackie Barker, a Shandon resident, spoke next. She is a candidate for an at-large seat with the Richland County School Board. She gave some background about herself and indicated why she wanted to be a member of the School Board. Her phone contact is 803 873 5365. Allison Terracio indicated that she was going to take office on the Richland County Council in January and was getting a feel for the ongoing projects in Richland County.

Neighborhood Crime Report: Officer Frier indicated that there were house burglaries and break-ins near Waccamaw Avenue. He indicated that thieves have “upped” their game often traveling in small bands. He encouraged all residents to keep their car doors locked and emphasized that residents should not keep firearms locked in their vehicles. He also indicated that video devices like Ring are very effective in deterring crime. He indicated there was some leads in the recent deadly crime in Rosewood.

President’s Report: Russell indicated that attendance is increasing at our meetings, necessitating a bigger location.

Treasurer’s Report: Bill indicated that there was over $9,000 in our account at the moment, but that number would be reduced to under $1,000 once the Mendoza bill and other bills are paid.

Secretary’s Report: John indicated that the draft minutes of the September meeting would be published within a few days of the meeting.

Beautification Report: Kelly indicated the signs, sprinklers, and plants are all done at the Triangle. Pine straw is in too. Everyone is encouraged to take a look. Kelly is going to contact Mendoza about monitoring/watering the plants during the upcoming year when Mendoza is responsible for the maintenance.

Communications Report: Michael indicated that the Communications committee met last month. The committee discussed: (1) Yard signs for upcoming meetings; (2) Less reliance on the printed newsletter through electronic delivery; and (3) Creation of the SNC Facebook page.

Events Report: George noted that the NNO was successful. He thanked many for help in making the event a success. November Turkey Trot is the next event. He noted that there were three tiers of sponsorship, platinum, gold, and silver. We get roughly $3,000 from about 10 sponsors.

Traffic and Safety Report: Rich spoke with David Brewer about the change from 30 mph to 25 mph on Shandon’s streets. The issue will be on the City Council’s agenda on September 18. If the change passes, signs will have to be made. If all goes well, signs will be up by late October. The City/DOT issue seems to be resolved. A question was raised about thru trucks using Holly Street. It was observed that the City would have to write a no thru trucks ordinance to address this.

Zoning/Ordinance Report: Buddy noted that he has stepped down as Chair. Martha is the new chair. Martha is working on getting a handle on the zoning issues of interest to SNC and the neighborhood.

Blake Weiss, Neighborhood Relations Coordinator for USC Student Life, spoke next. He started his job in the Spring. His phone number is 803 576 9512. He indicated that the University is trying to educate off-campus students on being better neighbors. There is a 20-minute video that is being distributed to assist in this education. It provides basic good-neighbor tips to students. The University also has an Off Campus Sanctioning program to help students who have among other things difficulty being good neighbors. Comments were made about the need to police the trash on Harden, Blossom, and Wheat Streets. Questions were also raised about the property rental ordinance that limits the number of non-related people in a home, the 2 am bar closing issue, the substantially engaged in the service of food requirement for bars, and the 400-foot requirement for bars.

A question and answer session was held by three employees of the City government, Kristi Hampton (Director of Planning and Development Services), Rachel Bailey (Zoning Administrator), and Amy Moore (Principal Planner/Historic Preservation). Kristi described the zoning/appeals process briefly. The three kindly addressed numerous questions from residents in attendance and members of Council. Subjects discussed included demolition, setbacks, overlay, and the proposed changes to the City’s zoning ordinances and how they may affect Shandon. If anyone has any specific questions, they are free to contact Kristi, Rachel, or Amy.

Old Business:

At our last meeting, Traffic and Safety was charged with “explor[ing]” a single location for SNC meetings. It is noted that Emily Douglas and Sims have 25-person limits. Rich made a motion that the SNC move its meetings to Heyward Street UMC, with such location being reviewed on an annual basis. Tamra seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor of the motion, except Lois, who voted against the motion.

The Communications Committee met in August and discussed yard signs advertising upcoming Council meetings. Michael moved that SNC expend up to $325 on twenty yard signs, 18 by 24 inches in size, with such signs having the same design as the signs at Heyward and Harden Streets and include language announcing the date of the upcoming Council meeting, with the signs being funded through donations. John seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motions concerning BOZA were tabled.

New Business:

Russell made a motion that SNC approve the closure of the 300 block of Howard Street for the requested times and that the President submit a letter to the City noting that approval. Richard seconded the motion, and all members of Council present voted in favor of the motion.

Russell made a motion to approve the expenditure of $350 for digital signage to promote the Shandon Turkey Trot, which would include an in-kind donation of $450 to a platinum sponsor of the event and would include the provision that the number of platinum sponsors be increased by one to offset the total cost of the signage. Rich seconded the motion. John and Karen voted in favor of the motion; the remaining Council members present voted against the motion.

A resident of Shandon (Rebecca), who resides near the intersection of Blossom and Holly Streets, requested that the Traffic and Safety Committee look into the addition of a 4-way stop at that intersection. She noted that there were three accidents within the last 30 days at the intersection. A motion was made, seconded by John, that the Traffic and Safety Committee research the issue of the addition of a 4-way stop at the corner of Holly and Blossom Streets. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

John made a motion that SNC submit an Action Grant to the City of Columbia by October 26, 2018 requesting $1,500 to repair and recondition the two greenhouses on the grounds of Hand Middle School, and if such grant is not approved, that the SNC submit a grant for two more neighborhood signs to be placed at locations to be determined. Rich seconded the motion, and all members of Council present voted in favor of the motion.

Michael moved that Council create and maintain an SNC Facebook page, with Council having administrative control over such page. The motion was seconded by Rich. All members of Council present voted in favor of the motion.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned.