**Shandon Neighborhood Council Meeting: July 13, 2020 via Zoom.**

Roll: John Meyers, Deborah Thomas, Steve Augustine, Andrew Clarkson, Lois Elijah, Matt Flach, Michael Jamison, Mike McCauley, Bill McCormick, Catherine Mubarak, Tamra Paschal, and Harrison Greenlaw. Kathleen Warthen and Rich Horton joined late.

Martha Johnson was not present.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Agenda was approved by unanimous vote of those present.

**Local Officials/Candidates for Office/Crime Report:**

Representative Seth Rose was present for a questions and answer segment. He focused on Harden St. and the future of 5pts and how it ties to the success of our neighborhood. He is in ongoing discussions with DOT about making 5pts more pedestrian and business friendly.

Q&A with Jonathan Milling from the School Board. The start of the school year is up in the air. We should receive information in about 10 days concerning whether school will start on time or if it will start sometime in September. The district is deciding whether to school will be in person, virtual, or a hybrid model.

Senator Richard Harpootlian was present.

County Councilwoman Allison Terracio was present.

Rhodes Bailey, who is running on the Democratic ticket, for House seat 75 was present.

Captain Blendowski presented there was a brief spike in auto breakings, but property crimes are down 25% since last year. He also discussed COVID calls for mask compliance. Calls should be directed to the fire department for mask non-compliance in city establishments. Captain Blendowski’s contact info is: 803-737-5880; Paul.blendowski@columbiasc.gov.

Officer Collin Johnson is the new community officer (taking Officer Frier’s position). His contact info is: 803-683-1886; Collin.johnson@columbiasc.gov.

**Officer/ Committee Reports**:

President: General summary of what's happening in Shandon.

Treasurer:

Expenses: Spring/Summer Newsletters: $1,765; PO Box annual fee: $106, Filing Fee Sec. of State: $52.

Income: Newsletter ads: $2,400; RC grant: $1,500.

Current balance: $11,658

Secretary: No Report

Bylaws: No Report

Beautification: Triangle is being maintained to the extent that grass has been cut, large branches removed, weeds pulled, etc.  Some sprinkler maintenance may be needed.

A call was received from a Shandon resident complaining about the height of his neighbor's grass.  The caller was referred to the City's code enforcement department.

A digital copy of the Shandon logo has been sent to Historic Columbia to be incorporated into a plaque for Shandon homes of historical or architectural significance

Communications: Contact List on website and the newsletter was reduced to one email address and one phone number to minimize the risks to personal privacy and scams.  A new Facebook album ("Back Yards of Shandon") will soon be added to the SNC Facebook page.  Our July meeting represents our third meeting by Zoom.  Feedback on our virtual meetings is welcome.

Events: National Night Out (NNO) moved to Tuesday, October 6, 2020.  The move is in line with the recommendations of the National Association of Town Watch (the org that issues guidelines for NNO).  Baskin Robbins is reserved for the new date.  SNC is waiting on the approval of a grant request that will cover a portion of the BR expense.

Grants: SNC submitted an application for a Richland County grant to help cover the costs of our quarterly newsletter and NNO.  The committee continues to research potential grant opportunities and monitors needs for inclusion in future grant applications, including the County grant due in February and the City grant due in the fall.  Councilman Brennan is inquiring with City of Columbia staff to determine if there are other grants on which the SNC and the City can team up.  Applications are due in February 2021 for RC Conservation Commission grants for research on historic homes and the production of plaques like the one recently approved for a home on Terrace Way.  Council may create an online form for those homeowners interested in participating in the Shandon historic plaques project.

Traffic and Safety: T&S fielded one request from a resident for support of a new four-way stop at the intersection of Maple and Duncan streets.  The Committee agreed that the City would be reluctant to put a four-way stop there because: (1) There are no unique features or hazards at that intersection that distinguish it from other intersections in Shandon; (2) There is a four way stop one block away at Woodrow, allowing a safe alternative to Maple; and (3) There is no history of accidents at that intersection.  The Committee communicated these points to the resident and decided not to support a request for a four-way stop at that intersection.

Turkey Trot: Race set for the day after Thanksgiving.  It's unclear whether we can have the race in light of the impact of Covid. Concern over asking for sponsor money in these financially trying times and in the event the race doesn’t go forward.

Zoning: BOZA approved the two special exceptions for the Rosewood Church project.  The developer and some folks living near the church are seeking to close Sloan Street in an effort to minimize the impact of the project on Shandon.  Council was made aware of a variance request to move a lot line next to the house located on 3626 Wilmot.  The current house sits on one of three lots tied to the house.  If granted, the request will allow two additional homes to be built, one in front of the current home and one behind it.

**Old business**: None.

**New business:**

Leaf Blowers – two neighbors requested an immediate ban on gas leaf blowers during the duration of the pandemic based on the most recent studies. The issue was tabled. T&S and Communications will discuss drafting an article for the newsletter concerning neighborly dos and don’ts during Covid.

SNC vacancy- Buddy Adkins resigned. Bylaws require minimum 8 members; max 15. A motion was made and seconded to advertise the vacancy and have it filled by Council vote at the September meeting. Discussion on the motion followed. There was a vote. Steve Augustine, Andrew Clarkson, Matt Flach, Michael Jamison, Mike McCauley, Bill McCormick, Catherine Mubarak, Tamra Paschal, and Harrison Greenlaw. Kathleen Warthen and Rich Horton voted in favor of the motion. Lois Elijah voted against the motion. Martha Johnson did not vote.

Meeting adjourned.