

## **Shandon Neighborhood Council Meeting: July 12, 2021**

Roll:

Judy Anderson, Steve Augustine, Andrew Clarkson, Lois Elijah, Matt Flach, Dolly Garfield, Harrison Greenlaw, Michael Jameson, Mike McCauley, Bill McCormick, John Meyers, Kelly Hynes Morris, Tamra Paschal, Tricia Seal, Kathleen Warthen, Catherine Mubarak Hunter

Minutes of the previous meeting were amended to correct that Senator Harpootlian and Councilman Brennan were not present; Sgt. Baier's name was misspelled. The amended minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda was approved by unanimous vote of those present.

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

Mayoral Candidate Sam Johnson was present and spoke. He left his contact info. Cell is 803-397-5920. SamJohnsonforMayor.com

Heather Bauer was present and introduced herself. She is running for Columbia City Council at Large.

Dr. Aditi Shavisa Bussels was present and introduced herself. She is running for Columbia City Council at Large.

Rep. Seth Rose was present. Funding is now approved for the DOT proposed project in 5pts that has been discussed in previous meetings. The public inputs session is scheduled for Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4-7pm at the Convention Center. The date could change because it is the same date as NNO.

City Councilman Will Brennan was present. Please reach out if you have any water issues or safety concerns.

Allison Terracio with County Council was present. There will be a County Memorial Service on Wednesday for those affected by Covid. The County is getting \$80 million from national funding and there will be opportunities for community based services for those affected by Covid, such as rental assistance programs.

Crime and Safety Report: Officer Collin Johnson gave a quick update. Residential burglaries – small uptick; Property crimes are down. Reminder- do not leave firearms in your car. Residential surveillance cameras such as Ring continue to be a huge help for identifying criminals. If you are going out of town, please let CPD know and they can do property checks. Capt. Blendowski was present as well.

### **Officer/ Committee Reports:**

President: The President's report was held until end of committee reports. All relevant topics have already been covered in committee reports. No duplication of information would be necessary.

Secretary- No report.

Treasurer report: No income in last 2 months, but a few expenses. \$134 annual post office box fee. NNO bill was \$573.52. Grant money (\$1,072.97) will help cover cost of that and the newsletter. Cost of summer newsletter: \$1,179. \$50. \$50 goes to Secretary of State.

Beautification: (Tamra) Beautification has not met this summer. We continue to maintain the triangle and we thank Caroline Clarkson and Harrison Greenlaw for helping out. We are looking to get an Eagle Scout Troop to make the Triangle it's Troop project.

Bylaws: (Steve Augustine) Has not met this year. One potential issue has been virtual voting for nonprofits. Bylaws are on the website.

Communication: (Michael Jamison) Has not met since last meeting. The newsletter transition from Ron Burns to Julie Ruff went smoothly. Great job and many thanks!

Updates have been made to the website regarding committee assignments.

Facebook/Website posts have been made for the following:

- Ice Cream Social / NNO 2020 (Thanks to Matt and Events Committee for a wonderful event)
- Emily Douglas Park Survey and Results (Thanks to Mike and Shandon Parks Committee)
- Free Times Best of Columbia Vote - Results Released Aug. 25 (Thanks to Harrison)

Turkey Trot and National Night Out 2021 are the next focus.

Events: (Matt Flach)

NNO 2020 was last month (rescheduled to June 2021). It was a success.

NNO August 3rd 5-7pm 2021 is ready to roll. We've got Baskin Robbins lined up again and Jesse is providing his services and connections as well. We will be serving hot dogs along with the ice cream like we have normally in the past so anyone that is able to lend a hand setting up, breaking down, helping with food would be greatly appreciated.

Matt has the signs and all the water we will need and will grab ice from the brewery that day. We shouldn't need a porta potty as the city has upped their park limits which will save us a little bit of money.

Grants: (John Meyers) Motion to submit grant to Columbia Council of Neighborhoods. \$50 grant for NNO. Seconded. Unanimously voted for. Opportunity for Shandon to set up a table at Columbia Council of Neighborhoods and get a \$250 grant.

Traffic and Safety:

The Traffic & Safety Committee (Mike, Judy, Bill, Catherine & Tamra) continues to monitor issues across the neighborhood, particularly the following:

- **Golf carts:** There has been a marked increase in complaints about reckless operation of golf carts in our area. In coordination with CPD, we have undertaken an effort to educate our neighbors on the laws regarding the proper use of golf carts, including publishing "Rules of the Road for Operating a Golf Cart in Shandon" in the summer newsletter (attached) and sharing DMV infographics on neighborhood social media pages.

NOTE: Per CPD, if someone observes reckless or potentially unlawful operation of a golf cart, they should call 911 or non-emergency dispatch at 803-252-2911 and then notify neighborhood officer Collin Johnson at [Collin.Johnson@columbiasc.gov](mailto:Collin.Johnson@columbiasc.gov) for follow up.

- **Speeding / stop sign enforcement:** The committee continues to communicate with the City as we receive reports of problem areas in need of speed and stop sign enforcement. If you receive complaints or reports, please forward those to me and the committee for tracking and follow up purposes.

- **Problem intersections** - The committee continues to monitor problem intersections throughout the neighborhood and is considering requesting a follow-up traffic study this fall once students are back in school. If anyone is aware of specific locations of concern, or knows of curbs/stop bars in need of repainting (there are many!) or foliage to be trimmed back to increase sight line, please forward them to me as we continue to update the consolidated list for action by the City.

Turkey Trot: (Kelly Hynes) We were unable to have it in 2020, but have the 2021 event is scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving at 10am. We will use the same vendors, etc we used last year. We need 30 volunteers to work a corner, pass out water, etc. Sponsorship forms are also available. Trader Joes in donating bananas and water.

Zoning: Continues to monitor neighborhood activity. New ordinances that are being proposed on short term rental property are continued to be monitored.

Parks Committee: (Mike, Judy, Bill, John, Tamra, Anne Sinclair, Meredith A'Hern) has met twice since the last SNC meeting and has had smaller working group conversations on various initiatives. Here are a few key updates:

- Construction on the **meditation garden** in Emily Douglas Park is underway and the committee included an update on this in the summer newsletter and on social media with Julie and Michael's help. The committee is in regular touch with the project contractor, donor, and city staff. The donor hopes to hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony when work wraps up around Labor Day, give or take a few weeks. We will keep the SNC apprised of those plans and any developments as construction continues.

- The committee has established contact with the board leadership at NOMA dog park for purposes of collaborating and sharing best practices for **dog park membership and governance**. Judy is leading our committee's effort to study NOMA's corporate documents and

bylaws to help us determine whether to consider pursuing a similar style of self-governance at the Emily Douglas dog park and how long that could take to stand up. Similarly, Bill is conducting a comparative analysis of dog park rules from Emily Douglas, NOMA, and a sample provided by the City so we can consider how/whether to amend and improve the rules at Emily Douglas.

- The committee has identified exciting state and federal **grant opportunities** and has been in touch with State and City staff to explore the process for applying for those on behalf of our Shandon parks. After reviewing the terms and conditions of Petsafe's Bark For Your Park grant, we determined the SNC is ineligible to apply on its own because the City owns the land in which the Emily Douglas dog park resides. We continue to have a productive dialogue with our elected officials and Parks & Rec staff and are developing a plan for the potential coordinated pursuit of multiple grants over the next year. Many thanks to John Meyers and Anne Sinclair for their counsel as we continue to develop our grant strategies.

- The committee continues to analyze the results of the **dog park survey** completed last month and is using that data to inform our efforts and next steps. We are considering a similar survey to obtain resident feedback regarding Sims and Emily Douglas parks generally, stay tuned for more information on that in the weeks ahead.

- The committee continues to have an outstanding relationship with the **Animal Mission of the Midlands**, who have lent their time and talents to our efforts to explore needed changes to the dog park. We are grateful for their partnership!

**Old business:** Motion for the Belinda Gergel Award to be given to Andy Shlon's family. He passed away in January 2021. He supported the neighborhood in various ways throughout his years as a resident. Motion unanimously passed. The award will be presented at the September 12 meeting. Motion to approve up to \$500 for both awards. Passed.

**New business:** None.

Adjourn.