

Shandon Neighborhood Council
 Draft minutes - November 13, 2023
 Location: St. John's Church



Call to Order - 6:22pm

Roll Call

Judy Anderson, Troy Byrd, Andrew Clarkson, Harrison Greenlaw, Rich Horton, Michael Jameson, Mike McCauley, Kelly Hynes Morris, and Cindy Waund were in attendance. Quorum established.

Dolly Garfield, Vince Schiano, Bill McCormick, Tricia Seal, Emily Saleeby, and Dennis Wiehl were not in attendance.

Approval of Agenda - The agenda was unanimously approved at 6:23 (motion: Andrew Clarkson, second: Rich Horton)

Approval of Minutes - July meeting minutes were unanimously approved at 6:23 (motion: Kelly Hynes Morris,, second: Cindy Waund)

Report from the Columbia Police Department

- Capt. Blendowski & Sgt. Derosha were in attendance, CRT Boyd had a conflict
- 6 auto break-ins (all unsecured) during month of October
 - Question - Hyundai models/years? Trend started on tik tok 12-17 year olds, Steering locks available for qualifying vehicles
- Best practices
 - Tis the season watch for theft, lock doors, don't leave packages in cars, bags etc
 - Don't leave valuables in cars
 - Look out for ignition flaw in Kia/Hyundai - Offering steering wheel locks
 - Check cameras and lighting
 - If you see anything suspicious, please call
- Next two USC home games are night games so should be fewer house parties
 - Report parties; first call results in warning, ~\$336 citation for second visit
 - Question - Is the landlord notified each time? Code enforcement should send notice to homeowner.
 - Property owner will be hit with that ~\$336 citation
 - Points system elaborated upon, points to rental property.
 - Notice of violation before any summons action
- Question regarding gangs - there is a shooting dashboard that tracks trends, there's a gang task force partnered with Richland County. Not much of a problem in Shandon area but there is an increase in gun violence since COVID. Last check showed a short-term slowing trend, it is monitored on a week-to-week basis

Remarks from Elected Officials, Candidates for Office, and Special Guests

- **Rep. Heather Bauer**

- Packed session busy
- Working on judicial review matter for Richland 1 students
- Working with DOT - program to work with inmates to help with garbage pickup along South Beltline.
- Was able to secure appropriations for the Lourie Center and The Therapy Place to expand footprint and services
- Focused on education and getting money for the district, fixing potholes, whatever is needed
- Update regarding Harden St. - 1 month to award, 3 months to get materials and construction underway. Working with CTCC to improve project execution. Variability in implementation and prices post-COVID.
- Question regarding speed humps/bumps under consideration. SCDOT provides a color-coded [Street Finder map](#) to determine road ownership.
 - Mike: Will be providing an update on behalf of Traffic & Safety Committee later in meeting. No speed humps/bumps currently planned. 4-way stop recently added at corner of Duncan and Ott. City traffic did not approve previous attempts for adding speed humps to Shandon. Requires a traffic study, steps with CPD, SCDOT has own criteria. Will consider inviting SCDOT to future council meetings because their rules are linked to federal laws which are trickier to navigate and can hinder getting changes communities need. Summary of traffic and safety committee functionality.
- Question regarding hose that has been in front of resident's home for some time. Dana Higgins: there's an emergency project which is currently underway to address, contact Barrett Burgess for discussion
- There are programs that can help pay electrical bills
- Contact at heather.bauer@schouse.gov

- **Councilwoman Terracio**

- County has been abuzz about the jail. We are under investigation/sued so no information can be given as this is an ongoing investigation. Whenever council has opportunity to act to help with this facility, we are making every effort with votes to make improvements.
- The unincorporated areas are passing a new code to suit people versus developers. The goal is to improve livability. Interested in learning more about short-term rentals in Richland County so that the rules are consistent throughout the County. Also, interested in the stormwater project.
- New penny tax bond vote Nov 2024 for new projects that are currently in the works. Looking for intersection improvement or bike lane changes.
- Please let us know what you want as a neighborhood.
terraccio.allison@richlandcountysc.gov

- Question - Keeping a spreadsheet list for requests on future penny tax proposal. Penny 2 likely won't complete until 2025. Vote on penny 2 occurs on Nov. 2024. Questions regarding state of the penny and confusion over where that money goes. It is used for roads & transportation projects. The county does not give loans to small businesses.
- **Tracey Robins - Candidate for SC House District 75**
 - Former teacher of 20 years working with 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th graders, coached volleyball, managed yearbook
 - Walking through the district to knocking on doors and introducing herself. Not interested in voting for parties, wants to bring hard work and for cutting spending.
- **Update on Water Infrastructure Projects - Dana Higgins, Columbia Water**
 - Large public meeting held in October and here to share info from that meeting
 - Water line 91k linear feet new pipe being installed. Phase 1 West divided by Holly, Phase 2 is the East. Removing section on Devine St. Construction time frame: Phase 1 planning is complete; Phase 2 is 60% complete. Expects both projects to last about 18 months.
 - These are new water lines 6", 8", 18" for the main lines; will replace pipes from the 1930s & 40s so this will update infrastructure and may increase water pressure
 - In talks with DOT to consider a full road resurfacing after project completion.
 - Sewer pipes have been updated recently
 - Door hangers will be placed as project changes/cutovers take place
 - Second major project is the Shandon Storm Drainage project ranging from Melrose Heights to Rosewood to Devils Ditch to Gill's Creek
 - The West watershed is 100% designed and they are close to wrapping up easement acquisition. Once that is closed they can begin construction.
 - The East is 60% designed, running into issues with easements and dealing with pipes that are going under people's homes.
- **Volunteer opportunities with Gills Creek Watershed Association - Tom Kohlsaar**
 - Raindrop imagination exercise: Where does the water go? From our yards to the street, to the storm drains whose pipes run to Devil's Ditch and into Gill's Creek. And if too much water flows, it floods. The Creek is no longer a natural creek; it used to flow naturally, now it floods more and is far less attractive because of all the junk that flows into it. Dog waste bags are a big problem right now. The creek is not fishable or swimmable. The Gills Creek Watershed Association is trying to fix this problem and restore the Creek to its previous state. The solution is to find ways to keep stormwater local to our properties and reducing or slowing the flow from yards to the stormwater drains. Rain gardens are a terrific way to capture that rain water.

- Watershed Champions - Participating in the restoration of the Creek and participants earn a sign for their yard. Visit Gillscreekwatershed.org for more information.
- **Shandon resident Stephanie Thompson**
 - On October 9th, she was walking on the sidewalk along Monroe St. with her 3 leashed dogs when one was struck and killed by a vehicle. The license plate has been recorded. He was going fast and wouldn't stop. He is a member of the community. Only recourse is to sue civilly. Monroe is the widest street. Looking for recommendations. Police said since his vehicle did not leave the street so there is nothing they can do. Please be careful. This is a major safety issue. First, what can be done to add stop signs, speed hump/bumps? Secondly, how can this not be covered under animal cruelty or property laws. The intersection is near Sims Park. Edward Court has a stop sign, but not one on Monroe. This is a hill where kids ride down from the park. Mike committed for the Traffic & Safety Committee to look into the situation.

Financial Report - Harrison Greenlaw, Treasurer

- The SNC currently has \$ 27,404.28 in its bank account. A few months ago we were at \$ 19,000; since then, we have collected revenue from newsletter advertisers and Turkey Troy sponsorships.

SNC Committee Reports

- Grants Committee - John Meyers, Chair
 - Love Your Block grant update: Wrote a grant for \$1,200 from the city to add plantings to Emily Douglas and Sims Parks. There's a list of plants that can be acquired. Volunteers are needed. 2% of the neighborhood should be involved. A grant from Richland County for \$1,500 was awarded to fund costs relating to the newsletter. This is in addition to the Columbia Green grant.
 - Motion from John that the SNC appropriate up to \$500, \$69 of which to cover the overage on the \$1,269 lowest bid, leaving \$431 in additional funds for any additional items needed, including mulch, soil, etc. The motion was seconded by Andrew Clarkson and passed unanimously.
 - Rich Horton commented that this is a good opportunity to spend more to expand the project.
- Parks Committee - Dennis Wiehl, Chair
 - Met with Columbia Parks & Recreation Dept leadership and discussed communicating neighborhood priorities for the Department's annual budget cycle.
 - Discussed maintenance/improvements of the grounds and equipment at the parks. Working to get items addressed that do not require additional funding, including having a sign installed at Sims Park.

- Survey coming soon for neighborhood to comment on what changes would be requested for the parks in future. There are some really big grants to chase once we have this feedback.
- Traffic & Safety Committee - Emily Saleeby, Chair
 - Emily, Mike, and Judy met with Captain Blendowski at his office in October to check in. Discussed enforcement and education including CPD website to request officers to check property when out of town and overgrown vegetation blocking road signs and speeding.
 - Committee met in October and developed the attached guide
- Bylaws Committee - Dolly Garfield, Chair
 - Reminder to submit proposed bylaws changes to Dolly. Changes will be reviewed and will be published on website and social media in advance of the March meeting.
- [Shandon Turkey Trot & Burn 5K, Nov. 24, 10am](#) - Kelly Hynes Morris
 - Turkey trot is 2 weeks away. Thanks to everyone who helped with the block party. It was a lot of fun! Hoping to make this a quarterly event.
 - Sign up for the race with QR code and use code Shandon5 for \$5 off.
 - Race begins and ends near Craft and Draft, starting at 10am.
 - As of an hour ago 431 runners were registered. Last year we had 293 at this time.
 - Shoutout to sponsors. Volunteers needed!

Other announcements

- The annual [Homes for the Holidays Tour](#) will be held December 3rd, 1-5pm. \$35 per ticket. Friend of the Tour recognition is \$40 to have name added to Next SNC meeting: January 8th, 6:15pm, Heyward Street UMC

Adjournment: 7:58pm

Neighborhood information session on Long- & Short-Term Rentals with Columbia Code Enforcement Officer Ian O'Connor began upon adjournment of the business meeting

SNC Traffic & Safety Committee guide

Overgrown Plants

- If vegetation or debris coming from a property is creating a sidewalk or roadway obstruction, it is the duty of the owner to remove the obstruction. Contact the City of Columbia Forestry and Beautification Division for enforcement (803-545-3860). Property owners will have 10 days to remove obstruction after notification from Forestry.
- The only exception to the above is if the obstruction is a tree on city property. If that is the case, contact Forestry (same number) for them to come remove or prune.
- Any landscaping work on the opposite side of the sidewalk (city property) requires a Forestry permit which can be found here:
https://planninganddevelopment.columbiasc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Forestry-Permit-Application_Fillable.pdf

Golf Carts

- Golf carts must be insured, permitted, and registered with SCDMV.
<http://scdmvonline.com/Vehicle-Owners/Types-Of-Vehicles/Golf-Cart>
- Golf carts must remain within 4 miles of an address listed on the SCDMV permit.
- Golf carts may be operated on roads with posted speeds of 35mph or less.
- Golf carts may be operated during daylight hours only.
- Drivers must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license.

Maintenance Requests

- For State Maintained Road, maintenance requests of road and sidewalk related issues can be submitted at <https://apps.scdot.org/mwro/>
- These include, but are not limited to:
 - Concrete Curb Repair
 - Drainage Structure - Clean Out
 - Pothole Notification
 - Shoulder Brush - Cut Back
 - Tree Limbs - Danger of Falling
- For a City of Columbia maintained road, go to [https://columbiasc.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/rs/\(S\(y1sfo15qjrhiijwmp3of3bpc\)\)/RequestSelect.aspx?LP=2](https://columbiasc.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/rs/(S(y1sfo15qjrhiijwmp3of3bpc))/RequestSelect.aspx?LP=2) or google "maintenance requests city of columbia sc"
- Resources here include, but are not limited to:
 - Street Division (road maintenance)
 - Solid Waste (garbage and yard waste pick-up)
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Forestry and Beautification (trees, vegetation on city property)
 - Code Enforcement
 - Animal Services

Property Check

- Going to be away for the holidays? You may request a “Property Check” through the City of Columbia Police Department at <https://columbiapd.net/property-check-request-form/>
- Property checks increase police patrols of your residence or business while you are away for an extended period of time and will be performed within the City of Columbia limits as time permits.

Fireworks

- All of Shandon is located within City of Columbia limits. In the City of Columbia:
- Fireworks must be shot after 7:00AM and before 11:00PM daily (year round)
 - Two exceptions:
 - On July 4th and December 31st, you can shoot fireworks until 12:30AM the following day (July 5th and January 1) but not again until after 9:00AM those following days.
- According to the ordinance passed by the City of Columbia Council in November 2022, it is also unlawful to ignite or detonate fireworks within six hundred (600) feet of a church, hospital, or public school. A copy of the ordinance can be found here: <https://citycouncil.columbiasc.gov/download/ordinance-no-2022-083/?wpdmdl=975309&refesh=65517df871e081699839480>

General Safety and Security Reminders

- Be sure to keep your car and home locked at all times and any valuables either removed or out of sight.
- If you have security cameras, make sure they are positioned well and settings are adjusted for night recording. Quality footage assists law enforcement when an event occurs.
- Please be extra careful as it gets dark earlier. When driving, take extra precaution for pedestrians crossing walkways. Pedestrians can help drivers by wearing light colored clothing or reflective apparel.