

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2017

A meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) Membership was held at 5:30 PM on Monday, May 15 at First Scots Church in Molly Wier Hall. Ms. Ginny Bush, acting as President, called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was for Ms. Bush to announce the election of Mr. Larry Sussberg to the CNA Board to fill the balance of the term of a member who recently resigned. Mr. Sussberg is an active member of the association and has been engaged in committee work focusing on tourism management, and crime prevention and safety initiatives.

Ms. Bush announced that the CNA webpage has been revised and expanded. The revised web site chasna.org provides more extensive information and services for members. Thanks to Margot Rose and Corie Hipp for this important resource.

Members were also encouraged to sign up for the CNA communication network through CharlestonNextdoor, a protected networking service that enables residents of individual neighborhoods to share information and report events and incidents. Nextdoor.com also provides an excellent local crowdsourcing and bulletin board service.

The next order of business were the committee reports, which were as follows:

Ms. Bush called on Mr. Randy Pelzer to present the BAR/BZA report. Issues of concern for the committee include the proposed changes to the BAR ordinance and Height Ordinance. These proposed changes convert most of the existing height districts downtown, measured currently in feet, to districts measured by the number of stories. Other changes would serve as guidelines for BAR review of for new construction and alterations (not affecting existing buildings). Members were encouraged to attend the Planning Commission Public Hearing scheduled for May the 25th at 5:00 P.M., Burke High School Auditorium. The BAR/BZA committee will continue to monitor these issues as they work their way through the public review process. The committee is carefully monitoring these regulatory issues as well as the short-term rental (STR) impact on resident neighborhoods.

The CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICE PROTECTION committee report was presented by Mr. Jerry Smith, co-chair. Mr. Smith provided an extensive

overview of current livability and enforcement issues of concern to the CNA members and to neighborhood associations throughout the peninsula. Mr. Smith introduced city officials and representatives of the Charleston Police Department who were in attendance. He explained how the committee works with city officials and the police to promote enforcement of existing ordinances, but noted enforcement challenges presented by limited funding and personnel as well as policy considerations.

Mr. Smith's slide presentation and data analysis included trespassing, property damage, illegal peddling of palmetto roses, noise ordinance violations by motorcycles, horse carriages and other tourism vehicles, litter and pet waste, car break-ins and other issues. Information from Mr. Smith's slide presentation will be posted on the CNA website.

Mr. Smith was joined in the presentation by Mr. Larry Gillespie whose sub-committee on Short Term Rentals is investigating the impact of this rapidly growing commercial activity, which is illegal in residentially zoned neighborhoods. Members were encouraged to attend the May 18 listening session by the STR Task Force and express their opinions.

Ms. Bush thanked the committees for their extensive research and information. It was noted that these concerns expand to other areas of the city and the CNA board is working in collaboration with other neighborhood associations who share Charlestowne's livability and enforcement concerns.

Several members voiced concerns that other issues of concern has not been addressed (such as parking). It was pointed out that the March CNA membership meeting had been devoted to parking, transportation and other issues and that time did not permit negotiating the complexities of all neighborhood issues at each individual membership meeting. This meeting was focused on enforcement of existing ordinances. Members were asked to submit questions, comments and suggestions about additional issues to the CNA Board and committees through the CNA website, by phone or email.

The next membership meeting will be held in September of 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie H. Wyrick
Secretary