

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2017

A meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) Membership was held at 5:30 PM on Monday, March 13 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 introduce the CNA Board members and thank them for their volunteer service. It was announced that Mr. Larry Gillespie has been elected to the Board to fill a vacancy for a three year term ending in 2020.

The next order of business was to clarify membership renewals information. Members were encouraged by Ms. Bush to provide correct email addresses in order to receive timely neighborhood updates and information.

The next order of business was for Ms. Bush to introduce the program, which focuses on public policy issues that impact the CNA neighborhood. Mayor Tecklenburg, originally scheduled to speak is in Washington, DC tonight and was represented by Mr. Josh Martin, senior advisor to the mayor, and Jacob Lindsey, Director of Planning, Preservation & Sustainability for the City of Charleston. District 8 council member Michael S. Seekings addressed traffic and residential parking issues.

Mr. Lindsey provided an informative slide presentation that provided updates on key areas of municipal concern. Revisions to the Board of Architectural (BAR) ordinance are under review. The revisions are designed to clarify ambiguities and provide clear standards on which to base decisions. The majority of changes involve determination of acceptable heights in different sectors of the city and are seen as favorable for residential areas.

City Council appointed a task force to study and assess the impact of short-term rentals on neighborhoods. The STR task force is currently holding public hearing throughout the city. A public hearing will be held at the Beth Elohim Synagogue on Hasell Street on May 18.

Mr. Lindsey concluded his presentation with an update on the Accommodation Overlay District (AOD). The Planning Commission is

currently considering modification to the AOD which are designed to stabilize compatible land uses throughout the peninsula. The current rapid growth of hotels has required a reexamination of land use patterns in neighborhood districts. The next public hearing will be held on Thursday March 30th at 5:00 pm in the public meeting room at the Gaillard (2 George Street).

Councilman Mike Seeking was introduced. He reported on efforts by the City's Transportation and Traffic Department to protect residential parking on the peninsula. The installation of signage and more rigorous enforcement of hour-long visitor parking has been effective on East Bay Street. More than 500 vehicles were ticketed and fined in the first 3 months of 2017. Councilman Seekings reported that efforts will continue in problem areas such as Murray Boulevard and he encourage all neighborhoods to seek restrictive parking designations. The procedures are not complicated and can be accessed on the City's website under the Department and Transportation.

Josh Martin, special assistant to Mayor Tecklenburg reported that the city has no projects in progress, nor any plans being considered to pursue construction of public bathroom in White Point Gardens or in the reinstatement of musical programming at the bandstand/gazebo. He reported that the Tourism Commission is evaluating concerns about horse carriage tours with attention to problems with congestion, acceptable weight limits and modes of weighing, acceptable heat and humidity levels and mechanism for temperature readings.

The City is aware of the need to enforce the noise ordinance, especially infractions by motorcyclists.

After a few brief questions, Ms. Bush took back the floor and announced that the next membership meeting will be May 15, 2017 at Molly Wier Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
Connie H. Wyrick