

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2015

A meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) Membership was held at 5:30 PM on Monday, March 9 at First Scots Church in Molly Wier Hall. Mr. Tom Waring, acting as President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The first order of business was for Mr. Waring to welcome members and to thank outgoing Board President Mr. Steve Gates, as well as outgoing Board members Mrs. Eleanor Hale, Mr. Richard Hutson, Mr. David Neff, Mrs. Ellen Smith, and Mr. Peter Williams. Mr. Waring then introduced new Board members Mr. Nate Berry, Dr. Bo Blessing, Mr. Mike Frederick, Mrs. Mariana Hay, and Mrs. Therese Smythe.

The next order of business was for Mr. Waring to introduce Mr. Jay Williams and Mr. Randy Pelzer to discuss the current status of the Sergeant Jasper site. Mr. Williams explained that The Beach Company withdrew the PUD application thanks to the combined efforts of several neighborhood associations. Mr. Pelzer then spoke about the current zoning, Limited Business (LB), which provides much more protection than what was proposed in the PUD application. Mr. Pelzer outlined the protections under LB zoning, those being use, height, density and lot coverage, all of which are important to prevent the current traffic situation from worsening. The Beach Company's own traffic studies show a level of service that should not be acceptable. LOS-E Traffic level is what they propose and LOS-F is gridlock.

Mr. Pelzer assured everyone that CNA will continue to work with other neighborhood associations, PSC and HCF and engage The Beach Company in discussion.

The next order of business was for Mr. Waring to announce the new committee chair assignments, which are as follows:

- BAR/BZA-Z: Jay Williams
- Crime and Safety: Bowe Pritchard
- Membership: Therese Smythe
- Parks: Mariana Hay
- Streets and Parking: John Thompson and Mike Frederick
- Tourism: Elizabeth Bradham

Mrs. Smythe reminded everyone about membership renewals. She then summarized her efforts to facilitate transportation to the March 16th Planning Commission meeting before it was cancelled.

Mr. Waring mentioned the recent assault at the horse lot and the robbery at Demetre Jewelry, and cautioned that at this time of year, gypsies come to Charleston. He read a letter from a neighbor whose dog was run over by a car when it ran toward another dog at the horse lot. Mrs. Elizabeth Bradham and Mrs. Mariana Hay will review possible improvements to the Horse Lot.

The next order of business was to hear from Councilman Mike Seekings, who addressed the Sergeant Jasper issue. He said the number one reason that the application was withdrawn was the unified and informed opposition. He said this will reset the way development proceeds in the city and that neighborhoods now have the platform. Councilman Seekings will put together a consensus team with representatives from neighborhoods to come up with ideas to present to The Beach Company. The challenge is to be part of the solution. He asked those in the room to drive the conversation, not to chase it.

Councilman Seekings then addressed the Demetre robbery. The perpetrators were two people in a van with no license plate. After the robbery, they parked in a nearby College of Charleston parking lot. There were no security cameras, an obvious public safety gap that affects the College as well as the city. The police believe that a national crime group orchestrated the burglary, as everything about the crime appeared to be professional.

The next order of business was for Mr. Williams to report that he, Mr. Pelzer, and Mr. Will Cleveland met with the Post and Courier editorial board today and is expecting an editorial tomorrow. He said that our position is very conciliatory now and that we are looking for something new. The Beach Company has to put something on the table with less than 454 units, less than 750 parking spaces, and without a 24/7 supermarket. He disagreed with Councilman Seekings, stating that the City is not on our side. The infrastructure cannot handle that level of density. CNA plans to meet with the affected neighborhood associations and homeowners' associations to have a plan in place before we talk to The Beach Company. He said The Beach Company, working with neighborhoods, has the opportunity to build something that blends history, quality neighborhoods, and an urban feel and density that would be beneficial to everybody and could be a landmark development for this country.

Mr. Waring encouraged everyone to stay vigilant, and to be ready to throw their weight toward the next phase of this development. He said that the May CNA membership meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11th in the First Scots Church sanctuary.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Adelaida Bennett
Acting Secretary