

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting minutes
September 22, 2015

A meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) Membership was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, September 22 at First Scots Church. Mr. Tom Waring, acting as President, called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was for Sgt. Chris Adams, Team 2, of the Charleston Police Department to discuss three recent activities in our neighborhood. First discussed were the car and home break-ins. Some of these have been solved but others are actively being investigated. He urged residents to keep their doors locked, keep valuables out of sight, call 911 if there is anything suspicious going on and, if you are the victim of a crime, file as detailed a police report as soon as possible.

Sgt. Adams emphasized that these thieves often take the path of least resistance and find open doors, visible computers and other valuables within easy reach. He also stated that many crimes are planned in advance with knowledge of a particular home or pattern of entering/exiting.

Next Sgt. Adams spoke about the continuing problem of youths trespassing and vandalizing property while cutting palm fronds for making rosettes. The police have made some arrests but Sgt. Adams noted that it is difficult to arrest a youth under age 12 or if they have a badge to sell rosettes. But he emphasized to call 911; state it is not an emergency and ask the police look into it.

Sgt. Adams received numerous questions and concerns from residents about bicycling on sidewalks, excessive noise from cars and motorcycles, cars running stop signs, etc. He responded to each complaint and stated that patrols would be increased in the specific areas mentioned.

The next order of business was an update of the Sgt. Jasper property. Mr. Will Cleveland and Mrs. Ginny Bush updated members about the recently declared impasse in mediation after the Beach Company, BAR and City of Charleston failed to reach an agreement. We learned that the Beach Company has since filed a more detailed appeal that seeks to overturn the

BAR decision. The attorney hired by the CNA, John Massalon, is currently reviewing the appeal.

The next order of business was for Ms. Elizabeth Bradham to discuss the financial status of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association. She detailed that \$45,000 has been spent litigating the Sgt. Jasper and that after \$41,000 of contributions, \$50,000 remains in the bank. Elizabeth urged members to consider additional contributions to make sure sufficient funds were available to continue to represent the CNA in this threat.

The next order of business was for Mr. Tom Waring to answer questions and note that City Councilman Seekings would not be able to be at the meeting as planned. During this time, Mr. Waring noted that a lost neighborhood dog was quickly reunited with her owner after a CNA email was sent out.

One question emerged from the audience. One member asked rather than telling the Beach Company what we do not want them to build, why don't we tell them what is acceptable? Mr. Waring emphasized that the CNA has invited dialogue between the Beach Company and the Neighborhood Association multiple times but they have not accepted the offer. He also noted that local architects have submitted conceptual drawings for how the area could be developed but these too have not progressed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Leadem
Acting Secretary