

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2016

A meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) Membership was held at 5:30 PM on March 7 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 Mayor Tecklenburg who spoke about some of the issues he is working on.

Hotel Moratorium: City Council was not supportive of the suggested hotel moratorium. A study will soon commence, which will include Modifying regulations for the accommodations overlay zone. There was been a significant increase in hotel rooms and yet there is insufficient meeting space. He hopes to have recommendations in ninety days.

Sergeant Jasper: The Mayor outlined the two plans proposed by the Beach Company. Plan A, which retains and renovates the existing tower and adds other buildings, goes before the Planning Commission on March 9. Plan B, of which we have few details, demolishes the old building, adds new buildings and a tower but reserves St. Mary's Field as a park. Mayor Tecklenburg said "we are going to work this thing through" by asking the City staff to recommend deferral Plan A and request that the Beach Company continue to meet with the City and the stakeholders (CNA, HVA, HCF and PSC) re: Plan B.

Tent City: Mayor Tecklenburg said the number of homeless in Charleston has tripled and three weeks ago, he and the City staff came up with a ten-point plan to focus on getting the homeless shelter and services.

West Ashley Revitalization: The Mayor said that half of the City of Charleston live West of the Ashley and that revitalization is a priority.

Seawall: The Mayor said the seawall along Murray Boulevard is estimated to take nine years and cost over \$50 million. The first section is scheduled for repair in 2017. He made a point of saying that with the potential of a one to two foot rise in sea level, the City needs to be thoughtful about how the walls are constructed.

Tourism Management: The Mayor recognized Mr. Dan Riccio and said they are working on new technology to monitor carriages and busses. Several questions were asked about tourism, parking and other issues affecting our neighborhood.

A few questions were asked of Mayor Tecklenburg, including one about parking issues in our neighborhood, to which he answered that he would implement a limited, block by block, "resident only" plan.

The next order of business was for Ms. Bush to briefly review the CNA Board committees that address issues affecting residential quality of life – parking, crime, tourism, parks, BAR/BZA-Z, etc. Ms. Bush invited the various committee

chairs to speak. Tourism chair Ms. Elizabeth Bradham said she is working with the City of Charleston to reduce the level of tourism vehicles in our neighborhood. Mr. Larry Burtschy, co-chair of the Crime committee, introduced Sgt. Chris Adams of Team Two who spoke briefly before encouraging members to call the Charleston Police Department about any issues of concern. BAR/BZA-Z chair Mr. Randy Pelzer spoke about the Sergeant Jasper. He said that CNA will oppose Plan A at the March 9 BAR meeting. Ms. Bush encouraged people to attend the meeting as we hope the BAR will defer to work on a better plan (Plan B) which, as Mayor Tecklenburg said earlier, the stakeholders have been in discussion with the Beach Company for months and speak with a united voice. Retaining St. Mary's Field as open space is critical. Ms. Bush mentioned that the CNA Board informs neighbors in real time via email and the newly formed Charleston Neighborhood Association Facebook page. There is also website (chasna.org) with useful information. Ms. Bush, speaking for the Streets and Parking committee, said that Broad Street from State Street to East Bay Street will be closed all week due to construction and that the Murray Boulevard resurfacing project will commence soon.

The next order of business was for Ms. Bradham to thank Tom Waring for his leadership as CNA President in 2015.

After Ms. Bush fielded a few more questions, she adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Rose
Secretary