

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2012

A meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association Membership was held at 5:30 PM on Monday, October 8, 2012 at First Scots Church in Molly Weir Hall. Mr. Steve Gates, acting as President, called the meeting to order. The first order of business were brief reports from the standing committees, which were as follows:

STREETS: The committee continues with efforts to secure designated dates for street sweeping on certain streets. The committee continues the effort to restrict Murray Boulevard parking, perhaps by limiting parking to two hours. Tree planting requests can be sent to Randall Robinson or John Cay.

PARKS: The committee is monitoring improvements to White Point Gardens.

TOURISM: The committee continues to monitor tourism ordinance enforcement.

CRIME: The neighborhood police Team 2 will have a new head with the promotion of Officer Middleton.

MEMBERSHIP: There are 610 members to date.

BAR/BZA: No report.

TAXES: No report.

The next order of business was for Mr. Randy Pelzer to report for the Cruise Ship Task Force. He said that the Task Force had submitted written comments and made oral comments to OCRM at a public hearing in September. The Task Force opposed the permit application by the SPA for the new cruise terminal at Union Pier. The Task Force pointed out the failure of the SPA to study alternative sites away from the residential and congested historic area. The Task Force asked for legal limits on cruise ship activity. Mr. Pelzer reported that Dr. Robert Ball, a public health expert, along with others, is considering a study of the health effects of cruise ship emissions and is seeking financial support. Mr. Pelzer noted that shore side power would take care of this problem and has been used in other ports and by the Navy.

The next order of business was for Mr. Gates to introduce Mayor Joseph P. Riley. Mayor Riley introduced two candidates for the school board, John Barter and Jim Ramich. He noted that crime in our neighborhood is very low and only one violent crime (robbery) has been reported in the past year. Mayor Riley enumerated a long list of projects underway in the City, including the Gaillard Auditorium renovation, the Crosstown beautification and drainage, a development at MUSC for bio tech and several other projects that have been reported in the news. He also reported on two new parks, one in honor of Irish Americans.

Mayor Riley fielded questions and comments from the Membership. Questions and concerns were raised about flooding on South Battery, parking on Murray Boulevard and East Battery, the condition of the High Battery, zoning ordinances that allow for residential units to be built or expanded in back yards adjoining neighbor's property, slow moving vehicles such as golf carts, increasing density in the neighborhood, traffic concerns about tourist vehicles, and

other matters. Mayor Riley assured the Membership that he would look into various issues raised and commented that he favored a proposed ordinance that would limit the use of electric carts to two miles of the owner's residence. City law already prohibits the leasing of carts. Another proposed ordinance would limit the commercial use of electric carts by hotels and carriage companies.

Mayor Riley was asked about the lack of legal limits on cruise ship activity and he explained that his understanding is that the City lacks the power to regulate but that the voluntary limits set forth by the SPA were sufficient protection.

The next order of business was for Mr. Gates to invite Mr. Barter and Mr. Ramich to provide brief remarks on their candidacy. Following those remarks, Mr. Gates recognized Councilman Mike Seekings for his efforts to work with Mayor Riley on many of the issues raised.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Margot T. Rose,
Secretary