

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2013

A meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) Membership was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at First Scots Church in Molly Weir Hall. Mr. Steve Gates, acting as President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The first order of business was for Mr. Gates to welcome the members and guests Mayor Joe Riley, Councilman and candidate Mike Seekings and City Council candidate Bobbie Rose. He then provided the following updates on matters on interest:

Seawall Repairs: The City will mark off temporary traffic patterns on October 31, including two temporary tour bus stops, no parking zones along South Battery between East Bay and King Streets and a turnaround at the end of Murray Boulevard. The Phase 1 construction area will be fenced on November 4 and repairs will begin. The project is expected to last until July 2014.

Cruise Ships: In September, Federal Judge Gergel set aside the pilings permit granted by the Army Corps of Engineers to the SPA at Union Pier, saying proper procedure should include an environmental and historic conservation impact study. The SPA had claimed an exemption, characterizing the conversion of a tin shed into a cruise ship terminal as a "maintenance" project. The SPA has indicated it will appeal this decision. On the state lawsuit against Carnival, a hearing is scheduled before the South Carolina Supreme Court on November 19 on the recommendations of the appointed judge to dismiss certain counts in the multi-count complaint, but not to dismiss the public and private nuisance counts or certain ordinance counts. If these recommendations are accepted, the case can proceed to discovery and then trial.

Filming: The crew for the TV series "Reckless" has accommodated CNA's requests for advance notice and managing parking and traffic impacts. They are also making contributions to our neighborhood association for filming days.

The next order of business was for Mr. Gates to introduce Mr. Randy Pelzer, Chair of the Tourism and BAR committees, who reported that, after numerous complaints that Pedi-cabs were conducting tours as opposed to permitted point-to-point transportation, the City had conducted a "sting" operation and ticketed such an offense. He emphasized the need for better enforcement of tourism regulations. He also pointed out that there have been no new developments with respect to the future of the Sgt. Jasper building, a project which he will continue to monitor.

The next order of business was for Mr. Gates to introduce Mayor Riley, who discussed the decrease in crime and a number of projects in progress. He indicated that Phase 2, the repair the High Battery, and then Phase 3, the repair of the lengthy Low Battery, which will be done in stages, would follow Phase 1 of the seawall repairs at the "bend" of Murray Boulevard and South Battery. He also spoke of the tunnels to address flooding, the improvement at Colonial Lake, other planned city parks, the Gaillard project and the pending increase in police officers. The Mayor received recommendations by members to inform tourists renting bicycles to obey traffic rules and not ride on sidewalks and to install "yield to pedestrians" cross walks at certain locations. Question topics included the proliferation of hotels and tourism enforcement. The Mayor described an upcoming review of the City's tourism management plan. A question about promoting cruise ship shore power for cleaner, healthier air drew applause from the audience, but the Mayor indicated he felt he had no authority to mandate it and, for a number of reasons, he was not requesting it. Mr. Gates thanked the Mayor for addressing the meeting and presented him with a copy of a new book on travel and tourism inscribed by the author, Elizabeth Becker, to the Mayor as a pioneer in tourism management.

The next order of business was for Mr. Gates to introduce Mike Seekings and Bobbie Rose, candidates for City Council. Each spoke for five minutes and then jointly took questions from the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

The next membership meeting will be on Monday, January 13, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Rose
Secretary