

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting minutes
January 27, 2015

A meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) Membership was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, January 27 at First Scots Church in Molly Weir Hall. Mr. Steve Gates, acting as President, called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to recognize outgoing Board members Mr. Steve Gates, Mrs. Eleanor Hale, Mr. Richard Hutson, Mr. David Neff, Mrs. Ellen Smith and Mr. Peter Williams. The next order of business was the election of new Board members, those being Mr. Nate Berry, Mr. Bo Blessing, Mr. Mike Frederick, Mrs. Mariana Hay, Mrs. Therese Smythe and Mr. Tom Waring. The slate was elected by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Gates thanked nominating committee chair Mrs. Zoë Ryan and her committee for their efforts.

The next order of business was for Mr. Gates to announce that the Tourism Management Advisory Committee has completed their work. The list of their recommendations include increasing the number of Tourism Enforcement Officers (TEOs), reducing congestion, regulating carriage transportation, narrower and cleaner tour buses, improved resident parking, remote parking for visitors, strengthening cruise ship limits, and improved public transit. Mr. Gates also said that plans for improvements to the Low Battery are in the works.

The next order of business was for Mr. Gates to introduce Mr. Randy Pelzer, chair of the Cruise Ship Task Force. Mr. Pelzer said that activity is still in the courts and that the task force continues to stress the necessity for an alternative site study for the proposed cruise terminal.

The next order of business was for Mr. Gates to briefly review membership numbers (over 700 households) and that CNA has contributed to various projects including the improvements to Colonial Lake and Hazel Parker Playground. Mr. Gates then introduced Sgt. Gritzuk, who briefly updated the members on the Charleston Police Department's efforts to apprehend the person who committed the sexual assault in the Horse Lot. Members were reminded to call 911 in the event of an emergency and to call the number listed on the CNA website for livability issues.

The next order of business was for Mr. Gates to introduce Kent Johnson, the Vice President of Development for The Beach Company. Mr. Johnson provided a visual and oral presentation of the plans for the Sgt. Jasper site. He said that demolition will begin in the March/April time frame and will last for approximately seven months. He then walked the members through the proposed three building plan, which includes 454 apartments, parking garages, a 20,000 to

30,000 square foot grocery store and other, yet to be identified retail space. He said that “work force” housing is their target market, to provide people who work at MUSC, the College of Charleston and in the business area around King Street with an affordable place to live. He also said that while demolition and eventual construction occurs, they would need to erect a temporary monopole cell tower. Mr. Johnson reviewed his traffic analysis and the conceptual master plan for the three buildings, including promenades and viewing corridors. The Beach Company’s application will be in the form of a Planned Unit Development (PUD), which will go before the Planning Commission on February 18. After Mr. Johnson’s presentation, there were several questions asked regarding the grocery store, storm water runoff, increased traffic on Barre Street and Broad Street, zoning changes, work force housing, etc.

As the presentation exceeded the allotted time, Mr. Gates intervened to allow City Council member, Mr. Mike Seekings, to briefly speak. Mr. Seekings recognized the work Mr. Gates has done on behalf of CNA and fielded a few questions before turning the meeting back over to Mr. Johnson. Several more concerns regarding the proposed Sgt. Jasper project were raised before the meeting came to a close.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Rose
Secretary