

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2012

A meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) Membership was held at 5:30 PM on Monday, March 12, 2012 at First Scots Church in Molly Weir Hall. Mr. Steve Gates, serving as President, called the meeting to order. He first introduced the new CNA officers and committee chairs. Mr. Gates then presented a gift to Mrs. Ruthie Smythe to thank Mr. David Smythe for his service as President in 2011.

The next order of business was for Mr. Gates to ask Mr. Randy Pelzer to introduce speaker, Senator George "Chip" Campsen. Mr. Pelzer noted that Senator Campsen is our district's State Senator, where he has served since 2004 and that he previously served in the state House. Mr. Pelzer also stated that Senator Campsen has a law degree, has worked in the maritime, law and commercial real estate business, and currently heads Fort Sumter Tours. Mr. Pelzer applauded Senator Campsen's excellent op-ed from September 10, 2011 supporting CNA's goals to study Columbus Street Terminal as an alternative cruise terminal location and to obtain legal limitations on cruise operations in Charleston, which can be found on his website at www.campsen.com.

Senator Campsen first addressed how our district, 43, was changed under reapportionment to include Port Royal and to remove Myrtle Beach. He was pleased that his district has a strong community interested in preserving beautiful beach and natural resources and in securing the proper balance of conservation, preservation and economic development.

Senator Campsen next addressed the recent mandatory shift of Senator Glenn McConnell from Senate leader to Lt. Governor, mandated by the state constitution, and the possibility that in the future, Senator McConnell could decide to run again for the Senate and possibly resume his former position.

Senator Campsen next addressed the cruise terminal controversy. He noted that he had authored a state law requiring the SPA Board to take into consideration the impact of port operations on local communities and to mitigate negative effects. He has been pushing Board members, port executives, the legislative delegation, and others to carry out that mandate by studying alternative cruise terminal sites and imposing legal limitations. He noted the inherent difficulty of persuading legislators from other parts of the state that receive only benefits from port operations and are easily persuaded by the port's job claims. He urged CNA to continue our efforts despite these difficulties.

In response to questions from the floor, and in particular Dr. Rick Reed, who reported medical association warnings about air pollution from docked cruise ships, Senator Campsen said that he supported shore power at any new cruise terminal and would be willing to introduce legislative to try to achieve it. Senator Campsen also discussed the ongoing controversy surrounding the dredging of the Savannah River.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Gates asked for any reports from committees.

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Mrs. Tootie Dawson stated that membership enrollment was in line with previous years.

Mrs. Ellen Smith reported the arrest of a person in connection with break-ins of cars south of Calhoun Street.

Mr. Gates reported on the status of the litigation. Briefs have been filed in the S.C. Supreme Court where original jurisdiction was taken. He also reported on a cruise ship code of conduct sent to Carnival with a request that Carnival comply with its own set of standards for the protection of cruise ports.

Mr. Pelzer reported on cruise ship task force action. First, the postponement by SPA of cruise terminal construction for nine months may be an indication that no agreement has been reached to extend cruise operations beyond the termination of the current contract this fall. Secondly, CNA and its partners (Preservation Society, SCCCL, Committee to Save the City, and HANA) had formally requested notification of any federal funding applications in connection with the new cruise terminal, which might trigger a mandated review under federal law of the impact on the Historic Landmark Charleston District and require mitigation measures. Third, letters had been sent to all state legislators and the Governor requesting the same merit-based study for a cruise terminal site that was being demanded for the site of federal dredging.

Mr. Gates reported for the BAR/BZA Committee that the Board had approved the submission of a position statement to BAR opposing filed plans to build a large new residence at 45 King Street.

Under new business, Elizabeth Bradham thanked the Board for opposing plans for 45 King Street and announced that over 200 residents had already signed a petition opposing the plans, which was available for signature at the membership table. She stated that Mr. Tribble, who lives just north of the property, had never received notice of the BAR application and had signed the petition. She noted that The Preservation Society, Historic Charleston Foundation, The Committee to Save the City, and City staff, had opposed the plans as well as all adjoining property owners on Legare Street and property owners across from the property on King Street.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Rose
Secretary