

**CHARLESTOWNE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 9 – 5:30 P.M.**  
**FIRST (SCOTS) – MOLLY WEIR HALL**

President David Smythe called the May 9 general meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association to order at 5:30 p.m. He welcomed all attending and ask all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He asked all members to sign in on the pad circulating around the room.

President David reported that October 16 has been chosen for the Hazel V Parker memorial family reunion and field day. Festivities begin at 12:30 at HPP. Guests will be urged to check out the old photos which will be on display and help identify people.

President Smythe then introduced and welcomed our speaker for the meeting...Chief Greg Mullen of the Charleston City Police Department. He thanked the association for the opportunity to update us on things that are happening at the police department and how they impact our residents. He began by discussing the Strategic Leadership Plan providing a roadmap of where they want to go with the department. He elaborated on the plan and how it is working.

We are in Team 2 headed up by Lt. Wilson. He encouraged residents to get to know Lt. Wilson...he is our direct conduit to the police department. Team 2 started out with 25 people...now there are 49 assigned to Team 2. The chief explained how quickly the system gets information on a crime out to the officers. What used to take 24 hours....now takes 5 minutes. All cruisers have global computers.

The Chief's goal is to have real-time analysis. Violent crime has gone down by 50% in the city over the past 3 years. The Chief talked about the security camera locations.

He then discussed the Pedi-cap issue....are drivers suppose to pull over when traffic starts to back up behind them? He will be meeting with Robbie Somerville, Traffic and Transportation, to see if the can look at that to see if the problem can be eliminated.

Sophisticated electronic systems and partnering with companies like General Dynamics are being implemented to take Charleston City Police into the future in technology ... allowing the police using collected statistics to predict where crimes will happen...to be pro-active instead of re-active. Citizens must be pro-active as well in simple things like locking doors and not leaving valuables on the seat of your car. After a short Q&A concerning money to keep officers, bikers and pedi-cabs obeying rules of the road, officers working at port, President Smythe thanked the Chief for his presentation.

**TOURISM AND CRUISE TASK FORCE:** Steve Gates reported that immediately following the appointment of CTF, his committee met with the editorial board of P&C to appraise them not only of their views on regulations, but the proposal to relocate the cruise ship terminal to the Columbus Street terminal. Following that meeting the P&C wrote an op-ed on the topic. On April 17 our op-ed appeared in the paper along with an editorial in support of both concerns. They also met with the Mayor who reiterated his endorsements of an unregulated cruise ship terminal and Union Pier. They wrote a letter to the SPA describing their views. SPA wrote to the Mayor on April 21 stating that their views were unchanged. SPA is going to proceed with current plans.

He noted that quite a few organizations have joined this movement not just for regulation of cruise ships, but also reconsideration of the terminal. He named the Preservation Society, Historic Charleston, Coastal Conservation League, Committee to Save the City, Hospitality industry, and the realtors have all written op-eds for the P&C. Steve then reviewed pertinent points made by Blan Holman (Ansonborough resident), who presented at our last general meeting of CNA regarding accommodations tax, signage, noise, height and environmental regulations that are not being fully applied. Blan further explained to us that this could be a basis for a lawsuit. The purpose of the lawsuit could be to challenge concerning these regulations and could also seek an injunction that might delay the start of activities.

So your CTF recommends that we be prepared to evaluate what Blan Holman comes up with and be prepared to consider joining that lawsuit. He then asked for questions from the membership.

John Thompson made a motion that (1) CNA authorizes joining others as a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the SPA and Carnival Cruise Lines to challenge cruise ship operations at Union Pier and seek related injunctions (2) The CNA Cruise Task Force be delegated the authority to approve becoming a plaintiff if they so choose in a complaint on these matters. (3) That the CNA contribute up to \$2,500 toward the cost of such a lawsuit (4) That the CNA CTF have access to all e-mail address and other records to keep members apprised of developments related to cruise ship matters and (5) that the CNA CTF speak for the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association on all matters relating to cruise ships.

***Call for discussion:***

Ras Smith (board member) stated that Steve was partially correct in describing the meeting. Jeff did say that the only way to get the attention of the SPA was to raise a lawsuit. However, that was only part of the conversation. The other members of the Board felt that this is something that should be looked at, but there was no unanimity whatsoever. The proposal, understanding the desire to move forward, will cut out your board of directors who are charged with studying issues that affect residents. This is a very complex issue and to have a five part

proposal at a general meeting with no preparation and by-passing the Board is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Tommy Thornhill was recognized. Tommy stated that he was a long time member of the CNA and had served on the Board as its president and a member of the Board many times. He expressed his dismay that CNA has become so antagonistic.. so split over the issue of cruise ships. CNA has been a respected and dedicated organization working with the community. He stated that the January 2011 meeting was no more than a blitzkrieg. Those who planned it did a good job. It was a hostile takeover of this organization. He feels that we should go back to the way we have always been structured with the Board making recommendations to the membership, not the other way around ... motions being brought before the membership without prior discussion. A lawsuit over 5% of the traffic in and out of the port is unfruitful for the Charleston Shipping industry. We need to go back to letting the Board function as a Board and not have all of these resolutions and proposals coming up at general meetings where no one has a chance to study them before they are asked to vote.

Ms. Tootie Dawson was recognized: Tootie stated that she, too, is a board member. She stated that it is time for us to act like civil human being and know that there is going to be two sides to issues but emphasized that we can come to a meeting of our minds and try to get somewhere in a decent civilized way without being arrogant and rude. Here tonight are only 1/5 of the people who belong to CNA. She stated that she felt the motion should be studied and it should not have been brought up and rammed down the membership's throats without the Board being able to go back and consider what has been said. We've been asked (in this motion) to give up member's e-mail address (which we have guaranteed to members will be confidential). We will not give those out until we can discuss this at a Board meeting and discuss that issue.

VP Mary Cutler was recognized. Mary stated that she was surprised that Mr. Thompson seemed to be privy to so much information discussed at Board meetings. Phone calls were made to those who would agree to support the five point proposal to attend so a quorum could be reached. We can't be an affective board when a meeting ends one way then secret meetings take place where another plan is devised which is then presented at the meeting.

Mr. Charles Duell was recognized. Charles expressed that he didn't feel we were polarized to the extent that people are over here or over there. If you follow what has been said and written, people are simply concerned that controls and limits are needed so that we don't become overwhelmed. SPA is not willing to sign any agreements. There is a lot of middle ground, but we have been talking about this for a year and a half. Some members don't want to leave it to the board because there has not been enough action. He then referred to Steve Gates' report. He is concerned that we are going into the summer months and we must get on with it and urged that the motion be voted on.

Steve took the floor again to reiterate his point that the Task Force appointed by the Board, has been hard at work planning, contacting, exploring and studying every angle to bring about interest and concern about SPA's plan for the cruise terminal. Their major focus is to have the cruise ships regulated and those regulations enforced. Many have joined the effort and where all may not agree with the Columbus Street plan, they do agree with regulations and a fresh look at the plan. What the Task Force is asking for is another tool to give us more of a voice. That is the authority entertain, if that moment comes up, a potential lawsuit with many plaintiffs in it...not just CNA. They will see what Blan Holman comes up with, see if it has merit...see if it has a roll in our negotiating and strategy.

President David stated that that the motion be deferred to the Board for further study. We all share this neighborhood and this is too complex an issue for a vote tonight. The Board had no previous knowledge of this motion and the order of this organization is for any and all issues to be first presented to the board, then to the full membership.

Confusion followed with everyone talking at once

#### RE READING OF THE MOTION:

- 1) **The CNA authorizes joining others as a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the SPA and Carnival Cruise Lines to challenge cruise ship operations at Union Pier and seek related injunctions.**
- 2) **The CNA Cruise Task Force be delegated the authority to approve becoming a plaintiff if they so choose in a complaint in these matters.**
- 3) **That the CNA contribute up to \$2,500 toward the cost of such a lawsuit.**
- 4) **That the CNA's CTF have access to all e-mail addresses and other records to keep members apprised of the developments related to cruise ship matters.**
- 5) **That the CNA's CTF speak for the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association on all matters relating to cruise ships.**

Mr. Thornhill reminded members that we used to have a newsletter to inform members of happenings in the neighborhood and related issues. This newsletter will be published again.

Mr. Will Cleveland was recognized. Mr. Cleveland made an amendment to the motion on the floor as follows: **That the motion be submitted to the Board and the Board be directed to meet within the next three weeks and that there be a meeting called of the whole association within three weeks to allow the Board to provide its report and recommendation or decision, however the**

**Board chooses, and that there be an opportunity for motions from the floor at that time on this issue after full and deliberate consideration from the board.** He added that he served on the Board many years before under Mr. Thornhill's leadership. He then stated that it is his impression that the neighbors believe in this and want there to be effective action. It is unfortunate that so much of this is about process. If we can fix the process part to give the Board their due and members to have an opportunity to have deliberate action but at the same time, not be delayed for the rest of the summer. Seems there ought to be a way to make that happen.

The amendment was accepted, seconded and approved.

Meeting dates will be announced and notifications will be sent out.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Tootie Dawson  
590 members

CITY SERVICES: President David reported that the City T&T is studying parking issue on the west side of the city to relieve the pressure of non-zoned parking. Colonial Street resident stated that 9 to 5 restrictions are not enough. They need evening zoning. City Services chairperson, Melinda Laurens, stated that other street residents need to know and it is a slow process to get approval. But it is in the works. Parking discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

Rainey Evans, Secretary