

CHARLESTOWNE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING – March 14, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.
Molly Weir Hall – First (Scots) Presbyterian Church

President David Smythe called the March 14 meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Next general meeting will take place Monday, May 9, 2011.

President Smythe announced that a fundraiser for the Parks will take place on April 16 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Colonial Park. "Party for the Parks" will include activities, food and drink for all ages.

Four way stop for Meeting and Tradd will be in place soon. Please make note of this change.

He announced that Charleston City Police Department has selected a new Team 2 commander. Team 2 includes all streets and residencies below Broad. The new team commander is Lt. Dale Wilson.

Tourism: Steve Gates reporting for Mary Cutler.

Mary is getting her committee organized and has asked Steve to be the point person on Cruise issues. He stated that action has been taken to publicize the contents of the resolution in various ways. Later in the meeting an additional plan for the redevelopment of the cruise ship terminal will be presented.

Parks/Playgrounds: Edward Hart

Hazel Parked died on February 19, 2011. His committee is seeking to encourage and support any memorial events that might be associated. Programs at HHP have been going well. Maintenance problems still exist concerning the tennis course and other repairs. In the spring, HHP will host 15 programs and 5 special events for adults and children.

Rick Reed gave additional information on the Tennis courts. He said the city doesn't want to spend more than \$5,000 which is not nearly enough to do the job right. He feels pressure needs to be put on the city to designate more funds for the courts.

Membership – Tootie Dawson

Tootie announced that membership has reach 421, a bit less than last year at this time. Also, she has received \$175.00 in donations. A cruise petition is at the membership desk available for signatures.

Crime: Cornelia Pelzer

No report

City Services: Melinda Laurens

No report.

President David took the opportunity to update the membership re the timed parking on the below Broad West portion of the city. This is still under study and consideration by Dept of T&T for the city.

President Smythe then turned the meeting over to Randy Pelzer who introduced the program. Randy then presented Mr. Kirk Grant, president of HANA who discussed Ansonborough's activities regarding the cruise ships. He said that Ansonborough members adopted their committee's resolutions, which are very similar to the resolutions adopted by CNA at the January meeting. They supported Union Pier, encouraged the city to examine the traffic master plan of 1996, encouraged the city to regulate the cruise business, and they encouraged the Tourism Commission to be in charge of that regulation. They also resolved that they believe the present plan for two ships per week and a limit of 3,500 passengers per ship for a grand total of 7,000 per week will maintain the quality of live surrounding Union Pier, but felt that these terms should be put in binding regulations. The HANA committee is meeting tonight to discuss support of the plan to move the terminal to Columbus Street. After a short Q&A, Mr. Grant introduced Blan Holman who is Senior Attorney in Charleston for the Southern Environmental Law Center.

Mr. Holman stated that he was going to address a basically easy question with complicated answers. Are cruise ships subject to local and state controls? His group has looked into the issue thoroughly and their conclusion is that cruise ships are subject to local controls and state law and that cruise operations here are violating, now, certain local and state laws. Many other issues include city ordinances restricting heights and signage, any structure that draws attention to itself, be addressed. He feels the discussions going on in Charleston are healthy, but at the same time he thinks, at some point to come, when citizens who are being injured by these operations that are reportedly beyond the scope of any local control, will have no other choice than to go into court. The ultimate objective is to have some reasonable controls so that things don't "get lopsided" in Charleston. After a lengthy Q&A period, including a discussion

on where the discharge of gray water and black water takes place, charging of head tax as in Alaska. Also state vs local re circulating resolution, better to have the city on our side? Mr. Holman then turned the program over to Randy Pelzer.

Mr. Pelzer called attention to the petition, which he and volunteers distributed throughout the area below Broad. He then presented his "blow up" of the plan to have the SPA move the new terminal much further north to Columbus Street where the container ships now dock. The plan would eliminate cruise traffic from East Bay and Concord Streets. It would recommend that all of Union Pier be sold for private redevelopment. The plan argues that SPA doesn't need Union Pier and the private developers do need Union Pier. It is just too valuable a piece of property to impose a cruise ship terminal on it. The called for plan would also make for cleaner air over most of the East side of the city with the prevailing winds taking any pollution to the Northwest over marshes and mud flats. He thanked all for their support. He feels this new plan is good for state, city, community and even SPA Cruise lines. Jeff Leath made a motion to have CNA general membership approve the petition and to create a cruise ship task force comprised of Steve Gates, Randy Pelzer and Margot Rose.

Mr. Pelzer's comments were followed by Q&A and comments concerning city support, type of fuel being used, HCF task force meeting with Mayor and Jim Newsome. Shouldn't talks take place with SPA? Mr. Pelzer stated that there have been indirect discussions. Rick Reed reminded members that the resolution has five parts. The current petition only deals with one of the five which stated that the Union Pier be developed in a fashion that would be acceptable for the neighborhood. Hope to have a considered review at the state level and get an intelligent decision by our state agency as to whether the petition should be followed.

We had a call for the question on Mr. Leath's motion. President Smythe asked for a hand vote. The ayes have it.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Rainey Evans, Secretary