

Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2017

A meeting of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) Membership was held at 5:30 PM on Monday, November 13th at First Scots Church in Molly Wier Hall. Ms. Ginny Bush, acting as President, called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was for Ms. Bush to introduce Dan Battista, Senior VP for Development of Lowe Enterprises, who provided a presentation on the proposed hotel at the site of current SPA Executive Office Building on Concord Street. Lowe Enterprises also owns the Wild Dunes Resort. They have already received a zoning change (special exception) for a 225-room hotel. Lowe Enterprises hopes to finish the design and obtain approvals in 2018 and break ground in 2019. The hotel will be a four-star plus property. Mr. Battista opened up the floor and there were questions concerning parking (employees will be shuttled in from a remote parking area), the number of food and beverage outlets, road improvements, etc. The park, a river walkway, will extend alongside the hotel.

The next order of business was for Ms. Bush to introduce Sgt. Shelor of the Charleston Police Department. Sgt. Shelor discussed the uptick in car break-ins just below Broad Street. He said that often vehicles are left unlocked or key fobs are left inside, rendering the locking system useless. He recommended that neighbors remain diligent about leaving cars empty and devoid of visible valuables. Lt. Christine Middleton reiterated the points made by Sgt. Shelor and reminded everyone that if there is suspicious activity, call 911.

The next order of business was for Ms. Bush to briefly describe efforts by the CNA Board to solicit member input to guide the advocacy and initiatives of the Board and committees. She then introduced the committee reports.

Short Term Rentals: Mr. Pelzer provided the current status of Task Force/ Planning Commission discussions about the proposed ordinance. He encouraged neighbors to attend the Planning Commission meeting on December 4 at 3:00 PM and said that the CNA STR committee and Board support the City task force recommendations and that the Planning Commission seems to understand the pressure STR's add to our neighborhood.

Flooding: Ms. Bush said that Larry Sussberg is the CNA flooding czar appointed to monitor developments and projects related to flooding issues. Groundswell! is a grassroots advocacy group of homeowners from the southwestern area of the peninsula, including Charlestowne residents. There are 140 members of this coalition and the list is growing. The City has commenced the Building Elevation

Design project. City Planning Department preservation organizations and BAR members are in favor of allowing the elevation of historic houses above flood levels and are developing design guidance for homeowners.

Livability: Ms. Bush said that as an outgrowth of the Livability Survey that identified most significant concerns, two discussion sessions were held this month. Police officials and members discussed enforcement of motor vehicle violations, loud motorcycles and trespassing. The second session focused on livability impacts, including carriages and tour buses, litter and public restrooms. A summary will be sent to members by email. Future sessions will include: STRs, flooding, Low Battery, parking and traffic.

The next order of business was for Ms. Bush to introduce Mr. Harry Lesesne, Executive Director of the Charleston Parks Conservancy. Mr. Lesesne gave a presentation on their project to renovate Moultrie Playground. Ms. Carrie Agnew gave a brief report on the petition for rehearing filed by opponents of the proposed new cruise ship terminal at Union Pier.

Ms. Bush announced that the upcoming holiday races (Turkey Gobble Wobble and Reindeer Run) will have road closures in our neighborhood and that maps and routes will be distributed via email. Ms. Bush also said that the next CNA Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, January 8th. The agenda will include the election of directors and the positions of Secretary and Treasurer by members. Immediately thereafter, the new Board will elect the President and Vice President for 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Rose
Acting Secretary