

# **Minutes of the Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 11, 2014 6:30 PM; Sherwood Forest**

**Presbyterian Church**

President Ed Tilden called the meeting to order at 6:30PM following a brief social period for neighbors and participants. A motion to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2014 meeting was approved unanimously.

The treasurer, Rhett Bailey, was out of town so Ed Tilden gave the treasurer's report. Our current balance, after the Halloween Party, is \$600. Dues to join the Neighborhood Association are \$20/year and this is our only source of income. However, our outstanding expenses are: \$200 for the yearly web posting fee and \$360 for the yearly maintenance of the gardens outside the arboretum on Wilmot St. In addition, we are being charged \$400 by the IRS to renew our 501 (c) (3) status (a tax exempt entity) as we failed to file yearly forms correctly (the rules of filing changed and we did not realize what needed to be done). Ed Tilden has contacted Kirby Shealy who lives in our neighborhood. He is a lawyer and has offered pro bono help with this matter. Everyone agreed that we need a membership drive and renewed efforts to get more dues paying members.

CPD PACE Officer Kevin Schmidt spoke briefly about crime in our area. Even though crime is down, Officer Schmidt emphasized the importance of calling the police to report any suspicious people in the neighborhood, including anyone going door to door selling things. The non-emergency phone number is: 252-2911. Officer Schmidt's direct cell number is: 803-315-9143.

There was some discussion about the duplex on the corner of Beltline and Azalea. Trash has been dumped over and left for days and a dog is tied up in the back of the property. Officer Schmidt said he would look at the property. Building code enforcement is now located in the same building as the police so they can work together to quickly address complaints.

Moe Baddourah, our City Councilman, updated about several matters:

1. Bond hearings are being discussed. Some hearings are so fast that the criminals are back on the street before the police can investigate the crime.
2. Council is considering having a night traffic court so people who work will not have to miss time on the job.
3. Council is considering whether to change the buffer or set back on 3c parcels. 3c parcels are retail parcels throughout the city. The buffer is now 600 ft and a motion has been made to change the buffer to 300ft. This change was requested by the builders of a dormitory on the corner of Harden and Gervais. Moe feels that an exception could be

made for this parcel, if deemed necessary, but that the law should not be changed to apply to all parcels throughout the city.

Ryan Nevius of Sustainable Midlands ([sustainablemidlands.org](http://sustainablemidlands.org)) asked for volunteers to help mark all our storm drains with their “no dumping” signs on Saturday, November 15. Ryan emphasized that everything that goes down a storm drain, goes directly into our Gills Creek watershed. The storm drains are NOT connected to the sewer system. Leaves, soaps from washing cars, dog poop etc go directly into the branches of the creek. For more information about the Gills Creek Watershed visit [www.gillscreekwatershed.org](http://www.gillscreekwatershed.org). Our local resident, Valerie Marcil, is the upcoming president of this organization, and there is a great deal of current activity involving the greenway going down Fort Jackson Blvd.

Ed Tilden led a discussion about the house at 3848 Wilmot. The Design/Development Review Commission (DDRC), which reviews and approves work proposed within the City's [historic districts](#), [urban design areas](#), and upon designated [landmarks](#), refused the request to demolish this home. Sherwood Forest voted to be part of the Community Character Protection Overlay. The CC-1 zoning overlay affects residentially zoned or used properties only and requires review of:

- 1) Demolition of structures 50 years or older
- 2) Relocation of structures 50 years or older
- 3) New construction on newly subdivided lots.

The DDRC felt that the home blended in with the 3 homes next to it. However, many neighbors wanted the house demolished and a new home built there as the structure has been left to fall to pieces. Several residents of Sherwood Forest have been in contact with the owner, who lives on Wilmot in Shandon, and we have to hope that he will fix up the property himself or eventually sell the home to someone who will redo the existing structure without demolition.

There was a quick election of officers as all candidates ran unopposed. The new officers are: President – Mark Hering, Vice President – vacant (please call Mark if you would like to serve), Secretary – Kathy Swanson, and Treasurer – Henry Nechemias. Many of our committee chairs are vacant as are block captain positions so please volunteer to help your neighborhood association.

The Twelfth Night Party will be held at Regina Monteith’s home on January, 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00. Regina lives on Kalmia right next to the Piggly Wiggly. Our next meeting is February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6:30 at the Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church. Our speaker will be Tut Underwood from the SC State Museum. Polly Tilden, Kathy Swanson and Claire Baxter volunteered to bring refreshments. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

and our current balance is \$443.25. Recent expenses included \$360 for the “Can Do Garden” fee and \$216 for the annual web posting fee. Because our balance is low at this time, it was discussed and recommended that an email be sent to all residents who are not currently members of the association encouraging them to join. The email would list some of the advantages and highlights of the association and detail the cost for annual membership (\$20.00 per year). Webmaster Lewis Kirk will provide this list to Ed Tilden, President.

Ed Tilden reported on recent crimes that have occurred in Sherwood Forest since the last meeting. There have been three burglaries. It was also noted that seven or eight homes in the Shandon/Heathwood neighborhood had reported that porch furniture had been stolen. While giving his report, Ed Tilden demonstrated how neighbors can use the RAIDS on line crime tracking software that the city of Columbia provides. This is a commercial system that police departments use to put their information into a database which then links to a common website that can be accessed by individuals in the neighborhood. It connects law enforcement with the community to reduce crime and improve public safety.

This is an easy and convenient way for residents to view the streets in their neighborhood to get a better idea of the crime activity in their area so they can make more informed decisions about how to stay safe. Ed Tilden displayed examples of data points where crime had happened in Sherwood Forest. Neighbors are encouraged to use the RAIDS System which is located at the Columbia Police Department website ([www.Columbiapd.net](http://www.Columbiapd.net) ). This link can also be used to report all crimes.

RAIDS On-line Link: <http://www.raidsonline.com/>

To Report A Crime: <http://www.columbiapd.net/CopLogic/>

Community Resource Officer Ashmore made a brief appearance as our regular PACE Officer, Garo Brown was unable to attend. (PACE stands for Proactive Community Engagement)  
Officer Ashmore presented