

Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association (SFNA)

Quarterly meeting held via Zoom, February 9, 2022

Hosted by Ed Tilden, Chaired by Gail Wojtowicz

UofSC Belser Arboretum report

Lynn Yenkey gave a schedule of programs planned for Open Houses, 1- 4pm:

- February 20: Come and walk through the already blooming gardens
- March 20: Dr David Coyle (Clemson Univ) will discuss invasive species
- April 17: Easter Sunday and also Earth Day (Apr 22) celebration

Gail offered to work with city to put in permanent directional signage for the Arboretum. Charmaine Clark (Charmaine.clark@columbiasc.gov), city liaison, and Council Member Will Brennan (Will.Brennan@columbiasc.gov) offered to help find the right department.

Treasurer's Report by Henry Nechemias

We currently have \$2,000 in our account. \$180 goes to the Cando gardens annually. We have 30 members currently and want more people to join. Social events are an excellent opportunity to get people to join the Association and to see where their money is being spent. See more on Growth and Enrollment below.

Speed Limits and Speed Humps

Since we have no sidewalks, there have been safety concerns raised regarding vehicle traffic versus children playing and pedestrians on our roads. The two suggestions proposed were to ask the city to 1) lower the speed limit and 2) get speed humps installed. A complicating factor is that SFN roads are state owned and maintained.

There was much discussion about whether we should seek to change the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 as neighboring Shandon did. Larry Hembree, who is a past president of the SFNA, gave a good history of working with City Council years ago to stop the speeding on Kalmia. Studies were done and options discussed and then while the city did not agree that it was necessary, they installed a 4-way stop at Kalmia and Wilmot to slow traffic flow.

The pros and cons of speed humps were discussed. While they physically force drivers to slow down, they can do some damage. Emergency vehicles are highly opposed to speed humps. Their use and placement could be selectively considered, in coordination with SCDOT.

Following the discussion, Ed moved that we #1 drop speed humps for now and #2 try to get the speed limit changed to 25 mph. Motions were seconded by Gail. These

motions passed. Ed Tilden will take for action. Lauren Bradley added that if we get the speed limit changed, we need to request more police enforcement.

Road Repairs and Road Signage

Azalea, Mimosa and Bloomwood/Blossom roads are in terrible shape. Will Brennan said that delayed water system repair work has exacerbated the situation. Gail offered to seek City/SCDOT assistance for road repair, and to personally focus on repair of potholes in the interim. Gail will take for action.

We would like to install SFN Welcome signs for our neighborhood (corner of Blossom and Beltline plus other major entry portals). Pat Mason offered to look into how this would be done and to organize a committee to come up with the slogan. Ed said this would be a good time to add that we are “Home of the UofSC Arboretum.” Pat Mason will take for action, assisted by Lauren Bradley, David Johnson and Ed Shuler. Will Brennan will help both find the correct person for road repair and signage. Will said there are city funds and design assistance for signage available.

Growth and Enrollment

How we can increase the number of people who join the Association and have more events? The following were suggestions:

#1. Spreading the word and Block Captain involvement. Only 30 of a possible 270 families are true members of SFNA. Pat Mason will create a card to be left at each residence – like a door hanger – with information about Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association and asking people to join. David Johnson offered to help with marketing and has design resources for different events. We also need more Block Captain volunteers. It is not about asking for money—it is about getting local involvement and sharing information. Pat will take for action.

#2. Approved SFNA Social Events for your calendar:

- April 2, on Kalmia. Lauren Bradley and Violet Beet have offered to host a Welcome Spring party with a band. Lauren Bradley will take for action.
- August 2 is National Night Out. Gail will coordinate all actions to include holding the event at the church. The City Community Affairs can assist with funding.

#3. Future Events:

- Will Brennan suggested an Art Crawl, such as held in Melrose Heights. Larry Hembree and Elizabeth Johnson will take for action.
- Lewis Kirk suggested having a neighborhood-wide Yard Sale. The Youngs on Wilmot have a huge yard sale each year in November to raise money for children. Columbia charges \$5 for each house that wants to register their yard sale. Will Brennan said he would cover the cost. Kathy Swanson will take for action.

#4. Yard of the Month award. Michael Thomas asked if SFNA would consider supporting this concept. Will explained that this event in Shandon is privately hosted by Art of Real Estate. It is not community driven. Mike Thomas will take for action. Will suggested we encourage Art of Real Estate to sponsor our newsletter as well.

Regina Monteith: Gardens are a way to bring people into the neighborhood. Columbia Green hosts their annual Garden tour on April 2 and 3 in the University Hills area. In addition, Val Marcil's garden and the Arboretum will be on the Sustainable Yard Tour, sponsored by Climate Ready Columbia and Columbia Green, on April 3, 10-5. Val lives on Robin Hood Court.

#5. Street Signage. Lewis Kirk is working with Val Marcil and Mike Thomas to get the "sign toppers" that identify Sherwood Forest replaced on several of our street signs. Lewis has the replacements.

Next meeting

Is scheduled for May 11, 6:30 – 8 pm at the same Zoom link as was used for this meeting. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8035302436>. The Host is Ed Tilden. Ensure your name is displayed properly when you sign in. Click on it if you need to change it. Please ensure you are muted if not talking. We discussed the pros and cons of "in face" meeting vs zoom. We liked Zoom because of the high degree of interaction we had and the new faces we saw. The agenda and the past meeting's minutes should be included in the meeting invitation.

In Closing

Not discussed but important. I suggest that all people identified as having action items report back to the Executive Committee within one month. Addressees should be: Mark Hering, Gail Wojtowicz, Henry Nechemias, Kathy Swanson, Ed Tilden, Pat Mason, Lewis Kirk (Others?) I also recommend we start posting a calendar of events and meetings; share the link on our newsletter.