

**Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association (SFNA)**  
**Agenda for Quarterly General meeting, February 8, 2023**  
**at Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church, Belt Line Dr**

Chaired by Gail Wojtowicz, Zoom hosted by Ed Tilden

Zoom ID: 863 8990 6648, Passcode 649565

**Welcome**

- Opening remarks; Gail expressed goal to be finished in an hour (6:30 pm – 7:30 pm)

**Reports**

• **Police Update** by MPO Gibb [David.Gibb@ColumbiaSC.gov](mailto:David.Gibb@ColumbiaSC.gov)

- 3 auto break-ins last year; none so far this year
- CPD is hiring
- Gail mentioned that a bicycle was stolen this week

• **Previous Minutes** (November 9)

- Minutes were approved.

• **Treasurer** by Henry Nechemias:

- \$2248 = current SFNA bank balance
- Arboretum garden maintenance fee is an annual expense
- 32 members have paid currently and Henry is going to start sending memos to neighbors who didn't pay last year

• **Arboretum Updates** by Trey Franklin:

- delay in plans to move forward with building a bathroom due to wetland area location so they are reevaluating to find a new location for it
- discussions are underway between the Arboretum team and Larry regarding planning the Art Walk
- Trey is getting more inquiries for visitors from out of town to visit the Arboretum
- the Arboretum has more open hours – Wednesday/Saturday mornings from 10am-noon and Thursdays from 3pm-dusk and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 1-4pm

• **Forest Friends** by Henry Nechemias in place of Valerie

- Plan to offer the program again in the spring and 17 trees were planted last year for \$95

• **Block Captains** by Pat Mason

- 12 block captains covering most of the zones
- We have set up an enrollment form encouraging neighbors to join the association
- First block captain meeting was hosted last

• **Branding Task Force** by Pat Mason

- We are in the 7<sup>th</sup> month of this group's efforts
- The "Why you love living in Sherwood Forest survey" was created (please complete it if you have not already done so)
- Just completed an application for Richland County community improvement development grant which could grant SFNA up to \$1500 for landscaping, signage, etc.

- **Social Committee** by Lauren Bradley
  - Working to have more social events
  - National Night Out will be hosted by Gail on 8/1/23
  - Halloween gathering on Kalmia on 10/31/23
- **Neighborhood Clean-up** by Dave Nelson
  - Clean-up event this Saturday, Feb 11: meeting 9:30am at Piggly Wiggly rain or shine - Dave will provide trash bags, safety vests and trash pickers; neighbors are encouraged to bring the whole family to participate
  - Dog poop bag stations around the neighborhood are going well

## Future Business:

- **Code Compliance** by Pat Mason
  - Pat expressed desire to keep a tidy neighborhood
  - Easy to report code violations on the city's website
  - The code compliance inspector for Sherwood Forest is Officer Stacy Harris who can be reached at [Stacy.harris@columbiasc.gov](mailto:Stacy.harris@columbiasc.gov) or 803-737-3002
- **Spring Art Walk** by Larry Hembree (potentially planning for June 18<sup>th</sup> but date is negotiable)
  - Goal to host a day for performing and visual artists (musicians, storytellers, dancers) to create work in the arboretum
  - Larry is in discussion with Trey about planning
  - It will be a free event
  - Applying for an artist project grant from the South Carolina Art Association (we would need to apply in March and know in mid-April if we receive it or not) in order to be able to pay the artists for the event
  - Trey thinks there would be space for 15 artists to display their work
  - First step is to identify the spaces within the Arboretum that would be used for the event and the second step is to determine what our vision for the event would be, then we need to select the artists with a focus on artists from the Sherwood Forest neighborhood, then focus on marketing and signage
  - Lauren suggests we ask the block captains for recommendations on the neighborhood artists
- **Tree removal** by Gail Wojtowicz
  - Continuing to encourage people to not cut down the forest trees and keep sidewalks clear
- **2023-24 Vision** by Gail Wojtowicz
  - Increase curb appeal is a big goal; utilize code compliance assets
  - Keep obtaining neighbors' contact info for sending out the newsletter
  - Build Outside Interest: Find Ways to Incorporate Art in our Neighborhood
  - Support dog lovers: measure population and consider building a dog park
  - Support Forest Friends: Tree Giveaway, On Site Advice
  - Plan and Advertise Social Events
  - Develop Additional Funding Sources: Merchants, Sponsors, Donors, Grants
  - Continue Political Involvement: Education and Inclusion

• **New streams for revenue** by Gail Wojtowicz

- Working on getting neighboring businesses involved
- Participating in Columbia and Richland county neighborhood association councils to learn more about how other neighborhoods operate with things like budgeting, etc.

**Next General Member meeting:** Wednesday, May 10, 6:30 – 7:30 pm in person and by Zoom. Host is Ed Tilden.

**Executive Committee:** (Next meetings are Thursday March 30 and May 3 at 5:30 pm)

President: Gail Wojtowicz

Acting VP: Pat Mason

Secretary: Kate Anderson Barton

Treasurer: Henry Nechemias

Appearance: Dave Nelson

Communications: Lewis Kirk

Social Comm: Lauren Bradley

Legal: Kirby Shealy

Past Presidents: Ed Tilden, Mark Hering

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Attendees: Gail Wojtowicz, Russ Harless, Kathy Swanson, Ed & Patty Tilden, Henry Nechemias, Kate Anderson Barton, Ron Hagell, Regina Monteith, Pat Mason, Maria Harvin, Larry Hembree, Belle Greene, Nick Greene, Lauren Bradley, Dave Nelson, Mark Hering