

Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association Meeting

August 11, 2009

Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church

SFNA members present;

Nan Sammataro, Loy Youngblood, Henry Nechemius, Lewis Kirk, , Ed Tilden, Eric Tate, Russell Jones, Marvin Lare, Pat Lare, Mary Ann Wimsatt, Charlotte McCreary, Larry Hembree

Visitors:

Pat DeCoursey, USC Arboretum
Jeri Lynn Hall, Community Development, City of Columbia
Officer Mahan, Crime Prevention Department, City Police Department

President's opening remarks:

Ed Tilden introduced the current officers of the organization and thanked Henry and Pat for providing watermelon.

Ed handed out the Neighborhood's top issues sheet put together by the Executive Planning Committee and discussed the items on it.

Treasurer Report:

Ed reported (for treasurer Rhett Bailey) that \$1551.86 is in the bank. We have received part of the CANDO grant money from the City that covers the adapters for the toppers and will receive the remaining amount after the receipt for the topper printing is received.

Crime prevention and report on area burglaries:

Lewis Kirk reported on the Heathwood West meeting he went to regarding the recent break-ins there.

Officer Mahan provided handouts on burglary tips. He amended one item on it. He said that for years it has been suggested burglary systems be installed in houses and that would provide maximum protection. Now they are modifying this saying that when a phone line is cut this does not send a message to the monitoring system. He suggested seeing about putting a cellular component to the system through existing companies. He said, however, that cellular components could also be disabled in some cases. He suggested putting a minimal delay on your front door when you enable and disable alarm and put no delay on back doors and ground floor windows.

Household prevention tips by Officer Mahan:

Walk around your house and ask yourself could a burglar get in and how. Please do not leave a key to your house on your premises but leave it with a trusted friend or neighbor. Do not leave a window along the back

of your house unlocked. Burglars can also get a butterfly lock open. The best thing to do is to put a pin in the window. For storm windows, leave the glass all the way down so that burglars can't get to the butterfly lock without breaking the storm window. They won't usually break windows for fear of cutting themselves. Solid core doors are always recommended. Motion detector lighting is always suggested. Always call 911 if you think it's an emergency. If it's a non-emergency the 911 folks will reroute your call. Fences with locked gates are great to put up (6 feet minimum and 8 feet recommended). Fences slow burglars down and keep the larger items they can steal to a minimum. The crime prevention phone number is 545-3555. Leave a message if you get the voice mail.

Election of officers:

Russell Jones reported that we need folks to step up and take positions. These nominees will be voted on in November. Ed Tilden would like to be the President for two more years. There is no person for Vice President at this point. Rhett Bailey would like to continue to be Treasurer. We are looking for someone for Secretary. Russell read the requirements for Secretary. We also have three other positions, which are members of the Executive Committee to fill. Of the three currently holding those offices, Bud Tibshrary, would like to continue and the other two are not interested in remaining on the board. He also said that committee chairs were not elected board members (they are appointed) but they could be board members at the same time.

Ed added that the bylaws were on the website if people wanted to look at them.

Russell asked that people think about participating as officers and let him know if interested by calling him at 414-5811 or email him at southcarolinarealtor@gmail.com. You can also nominate someone else after you ask him or her if it's ok first.

SFNA-USC Arboretum Joint Ventures Agreement:

Ed passed out the Memorandum of Understanding between USC and SFNA. A hired person will now maintain the CANDO gardens and we pay him \$30 per month. Additionally, we will not be having monthly Open Houses. Instead, we will only have two or three open houses per year and only when we can garner support from the neighbors to volunteer. We will not have a fall open house with the SFNA but there will be an open house in the fall put on solely by USC as part of the Arboretum Endowment. Ed talked about great things that were going on in the Arboretum.

Eric Tate suggested that we might post more signs about the Arboretum throughout the neighborhood instead of just on the fences at each of the Arboretum. Russell added that there would be more energy when we just do the open houses every once in a while.

Street sign toppers status report:

Lewis Kirk reported the topper adapters are in and the signs are being printed as we speak. We would also like to consider hosting a neighborhood event when people living in the neighborhood install the toppers.

Community Character Protection:

Russell Jones and Lewis Kirk (the committee asked to report back with a recommendation) met with City Councilperson Belinda Gergel and City Planner Amy Moore about interim measures. Sherwood Forest is covered under the interim measures for community character protection. Currently, there is no expiration date for how long the measures exist but eventually, City Council will establish permanent measures that will move everyone to the next step. The neighborhoods that are currently under the measures will get expedited through the next process if they would like to move forward. The interim measures limit the demolition of existing houses and the subdivision of existing lots. If the lot was already subdivided before the interim measures were voted on, they don't have to abide by the measures. Currently, we could possibly apply for one of three historic designations. The committee feels that Historic Designation is not an option for us because our neighborhood has too many house styles and too broad of range of years when houses were constructed.

In the end, Russell Jones made a motion that SFNA continue under interim measures. Henry Nechemius seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of the recommendation.

Membership dues:

Russell Jones made a motion that we change our current dues collection system of renewing anytime to an annual system, where everyone renews January 1 of each year, with the current membership fee of \$20 covering each calendar year. Furthermore, to address the current year (2009), he recommends that we charge \$10 to any new members or anyone who has not paid their dues previously this year and they will renew in January. Charlotte McCreary seconded it. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Membership drive:

Russell Jones proposed that we conduct a membership drive in October of each year. New members and anyone not current will be charged \$10 for 2009 with the understanding that everyone will be due for 2010 on January 1 at the current annual dues of \$20.

Henry Nechemius said that he thought if you had a membership drive in October and collected money that it wasn't fair to charge again in January.

Henry Nechemius made another motion negating the first motion that was passed re: dues and changed it to reflect that any new member who joins in October at \$20.00 gets a year and three months membership. Russell Jones seconded. The vote was unanimous.

It also passed that any current member who has not paid their dues in 2009 can pay \$10.00 to get them renewed for 2009 and they would have to rejoin in January at the new \$20 rate.

New Business:

Lewis Kirk said he would like to find some additional block captains.

One member is concerned that when she takes her walks she sees too many cars in front of some houses wondering if codes are being broken for having too many non-relatives living in one household. It was explained that she could use the city's online 311 system to let the city look at the specifics.

Larry Hembree suggested that we put on the agenda next time to do something nice for Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church for letting us use their facility for meetings.

Russell Jones showed the new SFNA sticker to put on cars that are going to be run off through Velvatex.

Henry Nechemius made a motion to adjourn. Loy Youngblood second. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Larry Hembree.

Other Business:

Brad Painter, Chair of the Beautification Committee, has scheduled August 29th as the next neighborhood trash pickup date.