

Minutes

Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting

August 9, 2011

6:30 p.m., Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church

Welcome:

Ed Tilden welcomed everyone in attendance. Everyone introduced themselves and where they live in the neighborhood. There were 18 members and 3 guests in attendance (see attached sign-in list)

Treasurer Update:

Rhett Bailey, Treasurer, was unable to attend and his report was presented by Ed Tilden. The account balance is \$1,802.55. CANDO maintenance of \$30/per month has been paid for the remainder of 2011. These are now sent to Friends of the Arboretum on an annual or bi-annual basis.

Committee Reports:

Ashley Norton, Social Chair, reported the Memorial Day Hot Dog sale and block party was a huge success. A Fall Hot Dog sale and Halloween party is planned for the weekend prior to Halloween. The date will either be October 29 or October 30. More information will follow.

Columbia Police Department Update:

Officer Baire reported on crime in the area, as well as a National Night Out report.

- National Night Out was a 3 day event in Columbia. It kicked off on Monday, August 1st at the Convention Center, Tuesday night neighborhood events were held throughout the city and a final event was held on Wednesday at Fort Jackson.
- Burglary in the Neighborhood – the door was kicked in, but nothing was taken at 520 Kalmia Drive. There have been several auto break-ins near the Shandon end of the neighborhood. He advised that residents be prudent of what is left in cars.
- A question was posed about a recent fire at 400 Kalmia, but he didn't have any information on this.
- He addressed questions about the abandoned homes on Bloomwood and Blossom. The 3900 Bloomwood house had started with renovations and a "for Sale" sign went up, but

family issues caused the realtor to withdraw the sale. At the 4102 Blossom street abandoned house the city sent out a yard cleanup crew. The house is under an open investigation for code violation at this time.

- Officer Baire suggested requesting to take a picture of any solicitors on your property. He stated that usually if they are legitimate, they will allow it and if not, they will leave immediately.
- He reminded everyone to contact 911 for any immediate emergencies and 252-9111 for non-emergency reports. For non-emergency questions or issues Officer Baire can be reached on his cell, 509-0454, or feel free to contact association president Ed Tilden with questions or issues and he will follow-up with officer Baire.

Guest Speaker

Bob Amundson, Executive Director (ED) for Affordable Housing Resources, Inc. provided information on the recent purchase of a house on Azalea by this organization. He was joined by AmeriCorps Vista volunteer, Anna Makin, who will be working with AHR this year.

- He stated the mission of the organization is to provide safe, affordable housing for low income families in safe neighborhoods with good schools. Furthermore, AHR wants to provide a good landlord while offering good neighbors.
- The organization started at Shandon Presbyterian church. The housing is funded through the city by HUD's home loan program.
- They currently lease two homes in Rosewood on Lori Lane and Hope Avenue.
- Mr. Amundson became ED in January 2011. He has a background in social work, a Masters degree in Public Administration and is a personal owner of rental properties.
- AHR looked at 4 homes in April, but were unable to find a four bedroom in Rosewood. Jill Moylan sent him information on the Azalea house. After checking out the house, he informed Belinda Gergel and Ed Tilden of their plans. The city approved loans for this home and one on Hemphill Drive in Rosewood. Both houses are set to close on 8/12/11.
- They have begun accepting applications from various families including one with five children.
- The screening process includes: a SLED background check, check of SC Registry for Sex Offenders, contact landlords for past five years, and three non family references. The one thing NOT included is a credit check (not of value since low income families generally have no or poor credit anyway).
- Mr. Amundson indicated that 44% of families in Richland County are considered "housing burdened", which is defined as 30% of income going towards rent or mortgage.

- Ed Tilden opened up the floor for questions.
 - Policy document – Anna should have this completed by year’s end.
 - Lease – residents enter into a legally binding lease that indicates what they can/cannot do (i.e. no pets, no illegal activities, etc.). Failure to follow could result in eviction.
 - Why do they not just rent/buy through HUD? This is no different than someone who does, except the Housing Authority pays a portion of the rent and the renter pays the other portion.
 - Affiliation with Shandon Pres – As of January 1, 2011 they are no longer affiliated with the church, although the church still provides some funding.
 - Can SFNA members participate in screening? It was suggested that someone from SFNA attend the August 18 board meeting and possibly volunteer as a board member. The meeting will be at Shandon Pres, Room 224 at 5:30 p.m.
 - Per AHR the tenant is responsible for all home repairs and yard maintenance.
 - What if HUD runs out of money? Will not affect current homes; however, no future homes will be purchased.
 - Other concerns expressed: adding more rentals to the neighborhood, any special school needs for the children, impact on property values, and possible increase in crime in the area.
 - They are currently not seeking additional properties in SFNA.
 - Ed Tilden requested a written response to concerns as well as a copy of the lease and policy plan document as soon as available.
 - Ed Tilden pointed out that any vacant or for-sale home in the neighborhood could be purchased by just about anyone, and the neighborhood association has no control over the buyer or their potential renters unless crimes or code violations occur. At least AHR is an active landlord that prescreens renters and oversees their occupancy. The neighborhood association can work through AHR to address any issues that arise.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melanie Matthews, Membership Chair.



SHERWOOD FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Attendance Sing-In Sheet

Date: 8/9/11

Name	Address	Dues Paying Member (Y/N)
Ed Tilden	4040 Bloomwood	Y
Bob & Alice Long	3903 Yale Ave	Y
Mark Herwig	4321 Wilmot	Y
Glenn Matthews	227 Kalmia	N
Melanie Matthews	227 Kalmia	N
David Nelson	2 Robin Hood Ct	Y
Libby & Skosh Freeman	4235 WILMOT AVE	Y
Connie Hudson	607 Allens Way	Y
Ashley Norton	321 Kalmia	Y
Erik Norton	321 Kalmia	Y
Kathy Swanson	4247 Wilmot Ave	Y
Frances & Will Braun	4228 Wilmot Ave.	N
Rennie French	611 La Bruce Lane	Y
Bob Anderson	964 Laurel Lane (Cheswood)	N (AHR)
Annah McCain	(AHR)	N
Pat Lane	604 Allens Way	Y
Marvin Lane	"	Y