



SHERWOOD FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association General Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2013: 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 May 14, 2013 meeting was approved. Ed Tilden gave the report of our treasurer, Rhett Bailey who was unable to attend. Our current balance is \$1,200.

Ed Tilden recommended that the association apply for a grant from the city to pay for the replacement of street topper signs that have been stolen, and to fix all signs so they could not easily be removed again. A proposal was made to apply for the grant once one becomes available. The proposal was seconded and approved unanimously.

President Tilden reported on recent crimes that have occurred in Sherwood Forest since the last meeting. While giving his report, he 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 displayed examples of data points where crime had happened in Sherwood Forest. Neighbors are encouraged to use the RAIDS Online System which is located at the Columbia Police Department website (www.Columbiapd.net) - RAIDS Online link: <http://www.raidsonline.com/?address=Columbia%20SC>. This link can also be used to report all crimes: <http://www.columbiapd.net/CopLogic/start-report.html>. Recent activity in Sherwood Forest includes a variety of crimes such as auto theft, disorderly conduct, traffic incidents, strong-arm robbery, and home burglaries.

Community Resource Officer Medlock made a brief appearance as our regular PACE Officer, Garo Brown was unable to attend. (PACE stands for Proactive Community Engagement) He gave a brief report and answered questions, and noted that the best offense against crime in a neighborhood is for residents to be vigilant and if unusual people, autos, or suspicious activities are noticed, to call police.

Pastor Mark Hering of Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church stated that he has files showing the names of registered sex offenders, and that he is willing to share this information with residents of the neighborhood.

Ed Tilden encouraged residents to use The City of Columbia Customer Care Center, which is the new 24-hour hotline for all City service requests and utility billing questions.

- For non-emergencies dial 311. A City Customer Care Center Representative will take Service calls at 311 during normal business hours. Requests will be routed to the appropriate City departments.
- To register a concern, residents do not have to give any personal information and may do so anonymously.
- If a resident leaves contact information, a Customer Care Center Representative will follow-up with the caller.
- Residents may also email concerns and complaints using customercare@columbiasc.net, or the website form at <http://mygovhelp.org/columbiasc/cs/RequestSelect.aspx?sSessionID=>.

At this point in the program, the three candidates for the office of Mayor for the city of Columbia, Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Councilman Moe Baddourah and Larry Sypolt, were introduced and each had a 20



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minute time period to introduce themselves and share their concerns and visions for the city. A brief question and answer period followed.

The next Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Meeting will be Tuesday, November 12, 2013, and Connie Hudson and Kathy and Peter Swanson offered to provide refreshments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.