

Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association (SFNA)
Third Quarterly meeting held via Zoom, Wednesday, August 10th, 2022
Hosted by Ed Tilden, Chaired by Pat Mason standing in for Gail Wojtowicz

Attending: Pat Mason, Ed Tilden, Valerie Marcil, Lauren Bradley, Henry Nechemias, Regina Monteith, John Epting, Ann Huyler, David Gibb.

Pat called meeting to order at approximately 6:35 expressing goal to finish in 1 hour.

Pat acknowledged the superior leadership of our President Gail Wojtowicz who has dedicated endless hours on various SF projects this year.

Minutes: May 11th meeting minutes unanimously approved via motion by Henry Nechemias. Pat requested that Lewis Kirk post all GM minutes on the SF site.

Reports:

1. Ann Huyler, Ann.Huyler@ColumbiaSC.gov, 803-545-3863, City Re-forestation Program Coordinator, was introduced by Valerie Marcil, SF leader of our Forest Friends program. Highlights of her very informative commentary:
 - City gets permits from DOT to plant 500 shade trees annually on right-of-way ten feet from edge of street. Planting is from November to March and the City is lifetime caretaker of the trees. To see if your location, sun, soil etc. qualify for the 2023-24 winter planting and to get a list of trees available for free installation, call Ann. Valerie will be promoting tree planting opportunities monthly via the CRIER. They will include funding from SFNA of \$200/yr for native (three gallon) trees on residents private property.
2. Officer David Gibb, David.Gibb@ColumbiaSC.gov, 803-260-4000, Neighborhood Officer reported zero crime incidents in Sherwood Forest since November 2021. The CPD officers are being trained and equipped with drones capable of day and night thermal photography. They are strongly recommending that all Sherwood Forest residents install residential surveillance cameras which have become relatively inexpensive these days. They act as a deterrent and are a great assistance to police should there be an incident. They also recommend using Apple tag tracking devices like the ones you use to find your keys.
3. **Branding Task Force:** Pat reported that the neighborhood image survey document has been drafted for review by the task force. The plan is to execute via the online Survey Monkey. In addition, we have created a photo album of about

two dozen neighborhood signs around the city that will be reviewed by the task force to guide our vision.

UofSC Belser Arboretum: Dr. Trey Franklin was unavailable to join meeting. Pat commented on the excellent leadership and management of this 9-acre tract in our neighborhood. In particular, the newsletter has become a splendid communication piece. Soon there will be busloads of USC students volunteering.

Treasury: Henry Nechemias, current balance is about \$2,400. Expecting NNO expenses from Gail. \$180 goes to the Cando gardens annually. We have a record 47 members currently (up from 30 last quarter) thanks to the dedication and leadership of the Block Captains.

Exterior Water and Sewer Line Insurance: Henry will have some insights on options for our November 9 meeting. Home Serve vs State Farm, etc.

Speed Limits: Ed Tilden is in regular contact with Director of Public Works, City and County authorities and Will Brennen, and the latest update indicated that the City of Columbia leadership is considering a plan that may effect all neighborhood speed limits, so speed limit change requests have been put on hold. . Many of SF signs already reflect a 25 MPH limit, including a new 25 MPH at the base of Bloomwood across from the Arboretum.

Block Captains: Pat Mason commented that we have enrolled and reenrolled 10 block captains to cover the 23 zones. They recently completed distributing about 200 newly created door hanger invitations. That seems to have yielded 4-5 new members so far. Many BC's answered the call to join the National Night Out festivities. We are still in need of more Block Captain volunteers willing to dedicate maybe an hour a month engaging their neighbors. Just text your nominations to Pat Mason: 803-467-9570.

National Night Out: Gail's leadership in producing this event paid handsome dividends in the form of genuine engagement with about 50 registrations plus additional family & Church members. We honor Pastor Russ Harless and his ARP board for supporting the Association with furnishing the band, church hall/kitchen, and home-made ice cream. The Taco Truck was also a big hit. Sonya Grantham displayed historical artifacts and neighborhood timelines. UofSC Arboretum booth displayed great info. The Association purchased a new picnic table (with \$110 SFNA funds) from Lowes and Gail built another table. Both donated to the Church playground. See the SF face book page for NNO photos. All agreed to do it again in 2023.

Approved SFNA Social Events:

- Monday, October 31, 4 PM to 7 PM, A Halloween event will be organized on Kalmia Drive by Lauren Bradley (text 678-637-5347) and Violet Beets. Will include DJ, food, games, and BYO beverages for adults. Lauren expressed a call-out be posted in the CRIER for volunteer adults to manage the games and, participants to bring food/snack items to share. No porta-john needed.
- Regina Monteith is again offering her home for the annual 12th Night gathering, should C-19 conditions allow.

Leadership Request: SFNA Executive Committee has accepted the resignation of Kathy Swanson who has served us valiantly and professionally for many years. The Secretary serves on the Executive Committee and for drafting minutes of our General Meetings. Might be 16 hours a year. If you know of someone willing to take this on for a year, contact Gail 618-402-8736. SFNA officer elections are scheduled for 11/9/22.

Car/truck/motorcycle muffler noise: Pat will talk to Officer David Gibb for information on code and enforcement. Neighbors commented on loud mufflers and drag racing on Belt Line.

Street Topper Signage: Lewis Kirk is working with Val Marcil to get the “sign toppers” that identify Sherwood Forest replaced on several of our street signs. Lewis has the replacements.

Meeting Attendance: Good Conversation regarding low attendance at General meetings. Suggested solutions include:

- more frequent reminders via the CRIER and emails dedicated to meeting/event reminders; place more neighborhood signs strategically around SF key arteries; programing to include more interesting speakers.

Sherwood Forest Associate Reformed ARP Church Playground: Discussion related to having access to their park for SF children. Request that Gail chat with Rev. Russ Harless re the willingness of Church leadership to talk about some kind of partnership with the SF Association and or City, liability issues, etc.

Next General Meeting: Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30 – 8:00 by ZOOM. Agenda is election of 2023 officers. Next Executive Committee meeting is Thursday, September 15th at 5:00 PM via Zoom

(Minutes transcribed by Pat Mason, with assistance from Ed & Henry from ZOOM recording.)