

# **Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association (SFNA)**

## **Minutes for General Meeting, November 9, 2022**

Chaired by Gail Wojtowicz, Zoom hosted by Ed Tilden

Zoom ID: 863 8990 6648, Passcode 6495656

### **Welcome**

Lasagna and Salad was prepared and served by SF Presbyterian church where the meeting was held. All was delicious! We are grateful of their co-sponsorship of our events and projects.

The meeting was called to order by Gail Wojtowicz at 6:30 pm. The following reports were given:

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

There has been no major crime in Sherwood Forest. There have been 2 car break-ins. Make sure you lock your cars! The police have a “bait car” that they are putting in high crime locations. The car locks once someone gets in it, sets off an alarm to the police and cannot be driven. Officer Gibb is also certified to use the drone available to the police to survey areas.

Russ Harless, the minister of the church, spoke of the problem he is having with homeless people using the church stairs and grounds to sleep overnight. There was a discussion about the village of pallet shelters built for the homeless. The city’s new director of homeless services in Kameisha Heppard. These 50 pallets shelters are reserved for adults who have been homeless for at least a year. There is also a Rapid Shelter available when the temperatures fall below 40 degrees. Officer Gibb said it is best to call 911 and get assistance with a homeless person. The police will pick them up and take them to a shelter. The non emergency number for help is: 803-252-2911.

### **Previous Minutes**

August minutes were approved.

### **Treasurer Report**

Henry Nechemias reported that we now have 51 families who have joined the association. Dues are \$20/year. We have \$1700 in the bank. Outgoing costs will be for: the Halloween Party, 12th Night Party, the website, poop bags, the Cando Gardens (\$180), and Forest Friends. There are 270 homes in Sherwood Forest so we hope to get more families to join the association.

### **Block Captains**

Pat Mason has been recruiting block captains and most of the areas now have a block captain. The block captains deliver fliers, welcome new people into the neighborhood, and try to get an email address so new members can be sent the Sherwood Forest Crier each month. Pat will share the list of all the block captains.

### **Halloween Party**

Lauren Bradley and Violet Beets organized the Halloween Party. It was a great success even though a small outburst of drenching rain fell for about 10 minutes. Then the sun came out and everyone dried off. The music was enjoyed from the porches and while people went trick or treating. This event entertained about 100 people; including lots of families. The association paid for the sound system and hotdogs and everyone brought a side dish.

### **Forest Friends**

Valerie Marcil reported that she was able to get 17 native trees for \$94. A bargain! Dave Nelson and Regina Monteith delivered the trees with instructions for planting and care that Val had put together. This program is to encourage the planting of native plants and showcase that we are Sherwood "Forest." Gail made signs to place in each yard showing that they received a tree. We expect to have this project again next fall.

### **Branding Task Force**

Pat Mason explained that the purpose of this diverse task force is to highlight our neighborhood and encourage people to be proud of Sherwood Forest. The task force is working on designing signage for the primary entrances to the neighborhoods, looking at areas that can be improved like the utility boxes, and promoting Sherwood Forest. To pay for this project Pat said they are looking at grants and collaborating with some of the commercial properties that surround Sherwood Forest.

### **Social Media**

Lewis Kirk presented a social media report regarding how many people go to our website, Facebook page and private group, belong to the Nextdoor neighborhood group, and subscribe to the Crier email newsletter.. Our website is: [www.sherwoodforestneighbors.org](http://www.sherwoodforestneighbors.org)

### **Elections**

Elections were held. Our officers for 2023-25 are: President — Gail Wojtowicz, VP — Pat Mason, Secretary — Kate Barton, and Treasurer — Henry Nechemias. We know they will have a wonderful years!

### **Code Enforcement**

Code enforcement handles neighborhood issues like cars parking on the grass in the front yard, roll carts, abandoned cars etc. The Code Compliance Inspector for Sherwood Forest is : Officer [stacy.Harris@columbiasc.gov](mailto:stacy.Harris@columbiasc.gov). Office phone: 803-737-3002, Cell 803-518-4644. Stacy encouraged neighbors to contact him with any issues rather than confronting their neighbors. He is also better able to handle issues when there are renters involved.

Regina Monteith mentioned a problem she had when the city came to clear her sidewalk. They did not contact her to say they were coming or why; she found them in her yard. The trimming ended up damaging her plants and they did not pick up any of the plants they cut down. Henry Nechemias said that home owners should always get names of the people doing the work, names

of whom they work for, and these days, take pictures. You then have a record and can also call the city, or whomever, immediately to find out more about what is going on.

### **Dog Park**

A task force is being put together to look into the possibility of a dog park on a portion of the church grounds. This idea is in the early planning stages.

### **Kudos**

Gail praised the association for all that was accomplished in 2022. Besides the social events that were great successes, we got the 25 mph speed limit, Forest Friends project was very popular, and the Branding Task Force is up and running. Ed Tilden suggested that we give \$200 to SF Church as we use their church as a meeting place. This was seconded and approved.

### **2022-23 Social Events**

December 10 Santa Hay Ride (Margaret Bodman)  
January 6, 2023 12th Night Party (Regina Montieth)  
Spring Art Walk (Larry Hembree)  
August 1, 2023 National Night Out (Gail Wojtowicz)  
October 31, 2023 Halloween Party (Lauren Bradley and Violet Beet)

Ron Hagell mentioned that he has formed a 501.3c group with some other people to lease space from a building on Commerce Drive near City Roots and the Airfield/Hanger. They want the space for artists' studios. The group will also be partially educational and work with the schools. He hopes that, if this works out, they could help with the Spring Art Walk.

Next general meeting is Wednesday, February 8, 6:30-8:00pm in person and by Zoom. EXCOM will meet at 5pm via Zoom on Dec 8, Jan 19 and Feb 2

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.