

Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association (SFNA)

Minutes for Quarterly General meeting, May 10, 2023

Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church, 4325 Wilmot Avenue Columbia, SC 29205
(Corner of Wilmot and Beltline Drive)

Chaired by Gail Wojtowicz, Zoom hosted by Ed Tilden,

Zoom ID: 863 8990 6648, Passcode 649565

Welcome

Gail called the meeting to order at 6:32pm by Gail

Opening remarks. One Hour goal: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Reports

- **Police Update** MPO Gibb David.Gibb@ColumbiaSC.gov
 - no property crimes since the beginning of the year except a small isolated incident on Kilbourne
 - no auto break-ins reported in the neighborhood YTD
 - there is a new code enforcement officer assigned to Sherwood Forest and his contact info will be coming soon
- **Guest Speaker: Savannah Jordan, Certified Habitat Community Project** Pat Mason
 - The mission of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SCWF) is to conserve and restore South Carolina's wildlife and wildlife habitat through education and advocacy (more info is available on their website at <https://www.scwf.org/>).
 - you can subscribe to their newsletter for volunteer opportunities
 - individuals can certify their own yards as wildlife habitats and apply online or via paper application and neighborhoods can apply also
 - water, food, cover, places to raise young and sustainable gardening practices are the requirements to be designated as a certified wildlife habitat
 - SC ranks as #11 in the nation for number of certified habitats per capita and Columbia as a city is a certified habitat
 - contact info for South Carolina Wildlife Federation: phone - (803) 256-0670; email - mail@scwf.org; address: 455 St. Andrews Road, Suite B1, Columbia, SC 29210
 - Pat made a motion to put together a plan to propose at the next neighborhood meeting in August to apply for Sherwood Forest to become a certified community/neighborhood; motion was unanimously approved
- **Previous Minutes** (February 8) minutes were unanimously approved
- **Treasurer** Henry Nechemias \$2,362.68 is our current balance and we have no outstanding bills currently
- **Arboretum Trey Franklin**
 - Trey and the arboretum are happy about the plan to certify the neighborhood as a wildlife habitat

- the plan to build a bathroom in the arboretum is still underway but still in the planning stages as they have run into some challenges
- the arboretum's hours are going to be modified to close on Thursday evenings at 6pm
- no open hours this coming Saturday 5/13 due to schedule conflicts
- the arboretum has been officially certified as a level 2 arboretum as of this year
- open house is going to be Sunday 5/21
- **Forest Friends** Gail Wojtowicz
 - Valerie intends to work on the native tree program again this year and the SFNA plans to support the program again this year; more info to follow
- **Block Captains, working with multi family HOAs** Pat Mason
 - we currently have 13 block captains
 - we also have interest in involvement from folks at Azalea Place, Cameron Court and Kilbourne Hill
- **Social** NNO August 1, Gail Wojtowicz
 - Gail asked for feedback about last year's event and whether or not we want to host another one this year
 - there was discussion about having the taco truck back again or grilling burgers and hot dogs
- **Neighborhood Clean-up: Sunday May 21, 12:30pm at Piggly Wiggly** Dave Nelson
 - there was a date change from Saturday 5/20 to Sunday 5/21 due to scheduling conflicts; volunteers are needed

Business Updates:

- **Branding Task Force:**
 - **Vision and slogan: Taking Pride. Nurturing Roots.** A motion to vote to move to accept this slogan was led by Pat Mason and the motion was unanimously approved
 - a research survey was taken by Sherwood Forest residents about what we love about living in the neighborhood
 - **Gateway Signs/Locations/Design** Pat Mason
 - There are 6 potentially locations that have been scoped out for neighborhood signs
 - the estimated cost of the signage project is \$16k over 3 years
 - Pat plans to bring a present a plan for raising these funds at the next neighborhood meeting
 - Goal by December:
 - Gateway sign at Blossom and Kilbourne
 - Mural at Devine and Beltline bus stop

- **Home Plaques for purchase, design, cost, market** Pat Mason: Pat would like for SFNA to manufacture and sell neighborhood plaques
- **“Business Friends” Plan for Financing** Pat Mason: plan to ask local businesses to be sponsors of the neighborhood with various sponsorship levels available
- **Status of 501c 3 charity designation** Larry Hembree
 - the neighborhood’s 501c 3 was made in 2003 and revoked in 2012 so Larry is in the process of reapplying
 - a 501c 3 charity designation is necessary to apply for grants
- **Art Projects** Larry Hembree
 - there are at least 17 artists in the neighborhood and Larry would like to include artists of all art forms (music, theater, dance, visual arts, literature etc.)
 - first step is identifying all of the neighborhood artists who would like to participate via the Crier
 - the idea is to create art in specific areas around the neighborhood (children’s garden, poetry readings, etc.)
- **Update on Cash the Dog and 4210 Blossom** Pat Mason: the neighbors went to court twice and the judge agreed that there was animal neglect in addition to public nuisance and the dog has now been removed and the house is condemned and in foreclosure

The meeting came to a close at 7:49pm.

Next General Member meeting: Wednesday, August 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm in person and by Zoom. Host is Ed Tilden.

Next EXCOM meetings are June 21 and July 26 at 5:30

Branding Task Force meets June 11 at Pat Mason’s, 2:00-3:30