

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

Minutes from Quarterly General meeting, August 9, 2023

Sherwood Forest Presbyterian Church, 4325 Wilmot Avenue Columbia, SC 29205

Chaired by Gail Wojtowicz, Zoom hosted by Ed Tilden,

**Zoom ID: 863 8990 6648, Passcode 649565**

### **Welcome**

**Opening Remarks** by Gail and the one hour goal was expressed: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

### **Reports**

- **Police Update provided by Captain P.J. Blendowski in place of MPO Gibb who could not make it: confirmed that Stacey Harris is still our point of contact for code enforcement concerns; the police department has been working to address auto break-ins that were occurring round the neighborhood; there was also discussion regarding the presumably homeless man who has been seen on the arboretum's bench on Bloomwood a few times this summer; neighbors can call 803-252-2911 for non-emergency concerns**
- **Guest Speaker** Richland County Councilman Don Weaver who represents out District 6, introduced by Pat Mason: discussed recent budgeting decisions and motions for proposed revisions for 2024 for Richland county; fiscal transparency and fiscal accountability are the principles that Don ran for office on; Don is passionate about affordable housing and there was discussion about how to increase availability of affordable housing in the area
- **Previous Minutes** (May 10) Kate Anderson; minutes amended to remove the line in the policy updates regarding a new code enforcement officer because Officer Harris is still our point of contact. The minutes were approved as amended.
- **Treasurer** Henry Nechemias was absent, so Gail provided the report in his place: we have 55 paid members, \$2730 balance, and there are few expenses coming up besides the Halloween party which is expected to be about \$250-\$300 and the cost of the Forest Friends trees program for this year
- **Arboretum** Trey Franklin: the arboretum has had several classes visit and more to come in the fall; there have also been some book discussions/book clubs in the arboretum; the arboretum is open for a Monthly Open House the 3rd Sunday of every month from 1-4pm; Additional regular open hours are currently Wednesday mornings (10am-noon) and Thursday evenings (4-6:30pm).
- **Block Captain update** Pat Mason: the block captains are doing a great job connecting with neighbors and we have a new block captain for Zone 20 – Dr. Dawn See; there are now 13 Block Captains
- **Forest Friends** report provided by Gail Wojtowicz in place of Valerie: the Forest Friends tree program for 2023 was a success and we are planning to hold the program again this year. Valerie expects to have the list to available tree species within the next month
- **Annual Social Events** Halloween, October 31 on Kalmia between Bloomwood and Wilmot, starts at 5:00pm, reimbursable, Lauren Bradley and Violet Beets

### **Business Updates**

- **Branding Task Force: Logo and Gateway Signs/Plaques/Design** Pat Mason: there are now 11 members of the branding task force; our neighborhood slogan that was decided on is "Taking pride. Nurturing roots" and there is a 2-year plan that includes raising about \$18k in funds mostly for gateway signs
  - Funding update: \$1800 has been raised so far - \$1500 from a grant and \$300 Business Friend donation from Don Weaver
  - There will be other donation opportunities
  - Goal by December: First Gateway sign and Mural at Devine and Beltline bus stop

- **Status of 501c 3 charity designation: the 501c 3 status is on track to be reinstated thanks to Larry' Hembree**
- **Honorary Friends** Arboretum and SF Presbyterian, Pat Mason: Pat made a motion to designate the Arboretum and Sherwood Forest Presbyterian as Honorary Friends and the motion was unanimously approved
- **Other:** Grass clearing at church was discussed by Gail Wojtowicz: residents have expressed concern over uncut grass on the church's property. The SNFA is in discussion with Russ to find a resolution
- **There has been conversation from residents along Bloomwood and Blossom that we should petition the SCDOT to get information on when they expect to have the streets from Kilbourne Rd to South Beltline resurfaced**
- **Pat has written a letter to the city council regarding the recent installation of the new LED street lights**

**Mark your calendar for these Events:**

- **Neighborhood Clean-up: Saturday Nov 18, 0930 at Piggly Wiggly** Dave Nelson
- **General Member meeting:** Wednesday, November 8, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
  - **Election and Bylaws**
- **Next EXCOM meetings are 5pm September 20 and October 26**



Devine and Beltline Bus stop. Mural potential.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.**