

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **January 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** at City Hall in the Planning Department's first floor conference room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were the Neighborhood Association Representatives and City Staff.

INPUT FOR FEBRUARY COUNCIL RETREAT – BILL PROKOP, CITY MANAGER

Bill Prokop, City Manager, addressed the group and said he would like to know what items everyone wants to see covered at the Council's Retreat in February. He said these will be major items. He instructed everyone to send their information to Libby Anderson either via email at landerson@cityofbeaufort.org or by mail to 1911 Boundary Street, Beaufort, SC 29902. The items will be placed on the agenda for the retreat.

DOWNTOWN RECREATIONAL NEEDS AND CHARLES LIND BROWN ACTIVITY CENTER - BILL PROKOP, CITY MANAGER

Bill Prokop, City Manager, said PALS asked him to ask the community for volunteers and mentors on a local level for local interest activities. Mayor Keyserling referred to the Greene Street Gym and Lind Brown Center that had activities for the community recently up until Mayor said we agreed to let the County be involved, so PALS could be part of it. The Boys & Girls Club now is a school and unavailable. PALS said since there was violence, we should close the doors. Mayor said we should "open the doors and turn on the lights". We need areas like the Northwest Quadrant (NWQ), The Point, and other communities to sit down and go over a plan for a community center. Mayor said anyone interested can send their information to Katherine Cruz in the City Manager's Office. Resident asked about the demographics for seniors versus children and said we are an "active place". Mayor said it won't replace the YMCA. Resident said we need something more for "senior" activity-related. Mayor said, "isn't there something at Burton Hill?" No, said resident. Ok, maybe it is part of the mix, the Mayor said. Pete Palmer said the Charles Lind Brown Center is in better shape than we've seen over the last decade, he said. It would be good for seniors to have activities during the day and then kids/families at night. Resident said there is a need for people who are not capable of moving to have access to a pool that they can get into. Mr. Prokop said these are suggestions like we're looking for to be on the retreat agenda. Mayor said we need a structure of 20 people who can help to work on the survey.

In other news, Mr. Prokop said the day dock will be done on May 21st and ready for Memorial Day and the Dragon Boat.

Peggy Simmer asked regarding "communication" she suggested having a City on ombudsman to help get more information out. Mayor said Ms. Simmer does send out a lot of emails with lots of information. Resident wanted to confirm what we are asking for is to use the center in the evening hours for both kids/families and seniors. Mayor said that is correct. Mr. Prokop said for example, Mondays and Tuesdays can be for kids/families and then Wednesdays and Thursdays can be for seniors.

Ms. Simmer asked for more specifications about the landing runway that will affect the Pigeon Point area. Ms. Simmer asked, "it's not a daily activity, right"? Correct said Mr. Pugliese.

Mayor said principle is the long runway and weather conditions is shorter runway, right? Mr. Pugliese said, "correct, they will use the safer approach".

Mayor commented that these meetings are the best thing to happen during his 9 years as Mayor. He reminded the group to be in contact with Senator Graham, Senator Scott and the Congressional Delegation regarding oil drilling. Permits could be issued as early as this month to start testing. He said we need to take them to court to prolong the process and look at the 5-year plan. Mayor said he is going to the Legislature tomorrow. Senator Davis is opposed to the 5-year plan, he said. Also, the petitions to sign are in my newsletter, he said.

Alice Howard, County Councilwoman, said they are very close to enforcing the ban on plastic grocery bags. Also, council is looking into how they can support the recreational activities. Lastly, there is a vacant position on the Historic Preservation Board for the Islands of Port Royal resident.

PRESENTATION - WASTE PRO NEW WEBSITE, CHRISTINE LAMBERT, WASTE PRO

Ms. Lambert introduced herself. She said a new website has been created just for Beaufort. The website is currently up, but not advertised yet. She said once I have the group's okay, then I will advertise this on the water bill and with the newspaper. The City of Beaufort's website has an area where you can access the tracEZ System and our new website will have this too. She is also working on a more inter-active tool where the resident types in your address and then all their information will pop-up such as dates for recycle, trash, etc. The new website is www.wasteprousa.com/beaufort. Cora Lee Shoemaker, Public Works, said recycling is always changing and asked when will the website be updated, weekly, monthly? Ms. Lambert said the recycling facility is owned by Waste Management and not Waste Pro, so she will update the website accordingly. Ms. Shoemaker suggested residents look at the website monthly for updates. Mr. Palmer asked what if someone doesn't have a computer. Ms. Lambert said they call me and we also have flyers.

Ms. Simmer asked about the smaller trash cans because there are some still being used in the NWQ area and residents don't want to give them up. Ms. Lambert said at some point they will have to be swapped out due to our new trucks. Ms. Simmer said senior citizens are the ones who have them because they don't usually generate a lot of trash and can't handle the larger cans. Ms. Lambert said she can send a "handicap" pick up, by having a painted mark on their driveway letting the drivers know it's a "handicap" pick up. A resident said she still has a small can and the truck ate it and couldn't get a new one. She said now she has the larger can and at some point, won't be able to handle it and wondered if she would need a doctor's note? Yes, per the ordinance, said Ms. Lambert. City Manager said this has been in the contract with Waste Pro for 5 years. Ms. Shoemaker said the small cans were when trash was in-house. They are no cost-effective. Resident asked, do I call Waste Pro for a new one? Yes, said Ms. Lambert.

NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The Greenery, Larry Kaczowka, said there is frost damage at the Waterfront Park. We are cutting back plant materials that is normally done now. Flowers, not being cut until the temperature rises more. Sweeping streets and always being cautious and safe with other vehicles.

City Public Works Department, Neal Desai, went over their projects:

Waterfront Park and Downtown Core District:

- Christmas decorations are down;
- Trash enclosure torn down, boring completed; ready to install compactor from Waterfront Park;
- Heaters were down at restrooms at Waterfront Park; found a vendor and the heaters are ordered; and
- Paving will start, sometime in the Spring, by SCDOT on Carteret from Woods Bridge to Greenlawn on Boundary.

Community Efforts:

- Pigeon Point HOA welcomed the replacement fence at Pinckney Park. It was an old rope fence which was being “cut” and it’s been replaced with split rail wood fence. A number of HOA members have complimented the improvement to the aesthetics of the park and area.

Drainage:

- Twin Lakes: there was continued removal of trees to allow for better drainage.

Other projects ongoing with Public Works:

- Southside Park Trail is on-going; 5 trees removed, and stumps are going out to bid for removal;
- Second Street Name signs order has been done and replacement signs will be replaced throughout the city. *(if you have a missing sign, please call in and it will on the next day order);* and
- Public Works completed the hauling of IRMA debris; 565+ tons.

Mr. Desai asked if there were any questions. Resident asked to speak with Mr. Desai after the meeting regarding the debris around the cemeteries.

Mr. Symes said the fountain at Charlie Knott Park is not working.

Nigel Stroud asked about pot hole repairs in his area. Resident recommended going to the SC DOT website and report the potholes; it’s very easy and helpful. Resident asked if this can be done for county property too. The other resident said yes.

Resident asked about the Park in the NWQ near Newcastle Street. She said the swings for the older kids only have 1 swing, others are missing. City Manager asked the resident, "is this Washington Street Park" you're talking about? Yes, she said. City Manager said this park is privately owned; even though we maintain it, we need owner's permission.

Resident asked about the patches of ice that are still on Southside Boulevard. How can I make a request for a sand truck, she asked? Mr. Desai said you will need to reach out to SC DOT. If you have no success, call me he said.

Ms. Nash also asked about the status of Scott & North Street. Mr. Desai said it is a joint project with DOT. We have finished our efforts and told DOT. He said the resident maintenance engineer retired and they are short staffed. Mr. Desai said he will reach out to them.

Resident asked what is going on in the area of Burton Hill Road and Robert Smalls Parkway; Mr. Desai said this is another commercial business, Discount Tire.

Downtown Operations, City Manager, Bill Prokop, said he was speaking on behalf of Linda Roper. This Friday at 4:00 pm we are having a meeting regarding a quick recap regarding the Downtown Plan. A report to presented to Council in February.

City Manager said Ms. Anderson will also be updating the City's Comprehensive Plan soon. We will be asking you all what you're looking for to be in our Comp Plan. Ms. Simmer asked, "how does someone get involved in the Focus Group". Ms. Anderson said it would be good to attend this Friday's meeting.

City Fire Department, Fire Marshall, Tim Ogden, said we are currently in our 4th building and fully staffed. He reminded everyone about winter safety and that his department offers free safety home surveys. Ms. Simmer asked if they do CO checks? Yes, we do, said Mr. Ogden. Ms. Simmer said this saved her life. Mr. Ogden said she can call 843-525-7055 for an appointment.

City Police Department, Chief Matt Clancy, said he has attending with him at today's meeting Lt. Squires, City of Beaufort Community Project Coordinator and Captain Gruel, City of Beaufort Operations Captain. Officer Fallon was to attend, but his father-in-law passed away.

Chief Clancy referred to the article in the Island News. The article stated that the City Police Department is at its lowest staff in years, crime is out of control; and the Police Department doesn't have any community policing. Chief said the same article is put in this paper every year. In the past we did only have 34 officers due to job cuts. Today we have 53 sworn in officers. Also, our traffic fatality has greatly improved due to having our Traffic Officer, Tab Walker. We only had 1 traffic fatality in 2017 since we hired him; county's is very high. We just received a grant for a DUI Officer and we also have three court officers.

He said the article also referred to “Police Brass” and apparently the author spoke to someone who worked with the Police Department 15 years ago. Lastly, the article said the City of Beaufort Police Department doesn’t have community policing and, we’ve done more now than ever, Chief said. Every officer is required to be a “community officer”.

Chief referred to the article that talked about 2 robberies. He said one suspect was caught who robbed the Kangaroo Express on SC 170 & Parris Island Gateway and he also had 6 other armed robberies. The other guy robbed a resident while he was going to get his mail around 11:30 pm.

Chief reminded everyone of the 9 o’clock routine - - lock your cars; don’t leave any valuable or weapons in your car; turn on all your outside lights; and lock your doors. Chief said our Facebook is good information as well as the Nixel App.

Ms. Nash said their association (NWQ) is starting up again. Our next meeting is next Thursday from 7 – 9 pm in the Fellowship Hall at the Presbyterian Church on Church Street. We requested an officer attend our meeting but haven’t heard back if someone is coming. Lt. Squires said Officer Fallon was going to attend but he can after his other association meeting at 6 PM. Chief confirmed someone will be there.

Ms. Nash spoke about the continuous gun shots in her area. She said the NWQ is not going to put up with it. Chief said a few people were arrested and warrants are out for the others. Some of them live in the NWQ and we’ve talked to their parents.

Resident said she is the “1 out of 5” that does read the Island News and asked, “why hasn’t anyone spoke with the reporter to get things corrected”? City Manager said this was addressed at Council by himself with the reporter. Resident said she will send an email.

Chief reminded the group to call the Police Department no matter what. It’s better to call then not to; and stop by if you can to say hello to our officers.

Codes Enforcement, Ken Meola, said the house on Palmetto Street behind Police Department has been demolished and cleared. The house on Ribaut Road with the tree on it has also been demolished and all debris is gone. Resident asked about Nathan Harris’s house. Mr. Meola said the Police Department called him about the tenants. Conditions of the main house and rental house are very bad, Mr. Meola said. The Police Department, myself, and Social Services stepped in. We are still working on it; the widow is now involved.

Ms. Nash asked about the code regarding intersections blocking driver’s views due to trees, specifically Bladen and Duke Street. Mr. Meola said he doesn’t handle this, its SC DOT.

City Planning Department, Libby Anderson, said regarding Bladen & Duke Street, we are doing an internal study for a 4-way stop.

Upcoming Projects:

ZBOA – 1/22 meeting – lot split at 2007 Pigeon Point Road

Council – 1/23 meeting – public hearing for retail frontage overlay (Old Jail)

Whitehall – no application yet, but possibly going to Planning Commission on 2/19 for subdivision only

Past Projects:

Quarterly Report (October to December 2017):

- Single-family houses – 13 permits
- New Commercial – 2 permits
- Commercial Renovations – 2 permits
- Larger Commercial Projects – 3 permits
- HRB – 12 applications
 - Day dock
 - Received grant for restrooms at Washington Street Park
- DRB – 2 applications
 - New Taco Bell on Lady’s Island
 - Newcastle Street Apartments – Student Housing
- Staff Level
 - Atlantic Inn Renovation
 - New Butler Doge Jeep Dealership
 - Former movie theatre on Lady’s Island changing to Climate Controlled storage
- ZBOA – 3
- One was B&B in The Point; Approved)
- Subdivisions – 1

Ms. Simmer said she is worried about losing all our “greenery”. Ms. Anderson referred to the new code and explained. Mitigation is now required for removal of certain trees.

Ms. Nash asked if there was a list of already existing vacant commercial buildings. Ms. Anderson said we don’t keep a list, but maybe Mr. Meola or the Chamber has something.

Resident asked if anyone is interested in the old K-Mart. Ms. Anderson said owner is dividing the space into individual tenant spaces. We had one application for inquiry for another Cracked Egg Restaurant.

City Planning Department, Brian Franklin, said regarding the 4-Way on Bladen Street, the palms and the on-street parking are issues. As you’re coming down Bladen, cars are going over the posted speed limited. Regarding Southside Park, Brian has identified trees that are directly in the trail’s way and have been removed as well as some older tree stumps. Regarding Southside Park trail, it is out to bid and should be awarded by the end of this month and done by May of this year.

Regarding Boundary Street, we have met with the Landscape Contractor and General Contractor. We are ordering plant materials. Resident asked if Wendy's is leaving. Mr. Franklin said not at this point. Resident asked about the fancy yellow flashing lights and asked if these are available for U-turns. Ms. Anderson will let Neal Pugliese know.

Mr. Franklin said the City has been approached by Holy Trinity to do soccer fields at Southside Park in the "center green" area. Resident asked if their parking needs will be addressed in the MOA. Yes, and we're looking at extending the dog park parking too, Mr. Franklin said. Ms. Simmer asked about the soil test on Prince Street. Mr. Franklin said we got them back and we're speaking with Robbie Anderson at Public Works.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Northwest Quadrant, Dave Easton, said our meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7 – 9 pm at the Fellowship Hall at Presbyterian Church on Church Street.

Old Commons, Peggy Simmer, said our meeting is on January 18 at 6:00 PM; it will be potluck.

Next Meeting is February 21, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am