

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **April 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** at the City of Beaufort Fire Station 2 Training Room at 1120 Ribaut Road. In attendance were the Neighborhood Association Representatives and City Staff.

Ms. Anderson also acknowledged County Councilwoman, Alice Howard and asked if she had anything to report. Ms. Howard said she was glad to see that the City of Beaufort applied for the CDBG Grant for stormwater. Ms. Anderson also acknowledged the City Manager, Bill Prokop, who gave a big thank you to Public Works for fixing the stormwater on South Hermitage and to the Fire Department for their efforts in the Port Royal fire last Thursday. The house had 3 people inside the house and they were all taken out because of the firefighters.

SOUTHSIDE PARK UPDATE – BRIAN FRANKLIN, CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Franklin said he was out this morning with the Southside Park trail contractor. The trail surface was being put down and concrete work has started. We are 75% completed with the project and the deadline for completion is May 18. There are some temporary trip hazards so be aware of them as you walk the trail. Mr. Franklin said he saw lots of people out there walking and it is great! Mr. Franklin acknowledged there were people attending tonight from Holy Trinity and they would like to use the central green in the park for two practice soccer fields. Mr. Franklin also referred to the forthcoming MOU. Mr. Franklin asked if there are any comments and/or concerns, to contact him via email (bfranklin@cityofbeaufort.org) or by phone (843-525-6348) by Monday.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Connie Hipp asked for clarification on the soccer field issue. Pastor from Holy Trinity is proposing to use part of the Southside Park Central Green for soccer practice and eventually hopes to have games there. Edie Rodgers asked if Mr. Franklin would explain to everyone what “MOU” means. MOU stands for “Memorandum of Understanding” Mr. Franklin said. A Broad Street resident said prior to tonight, it was never proposed to be a soccer/sports field. Mr. Franklin said when Staff was approached by Holy Trinity, the Planning Department pulled the restrictive covenants and reviewed it for any conflicts of use. Mr. Franklin also said he pulled the Southside Park Committee’s recommendations that were a “proposed list” presented to Council for public participation which included in a numeral order with #1 being a jogging trail, # 2 as open grassy areas, #10 as practice fields, and #15 as a dog run.

Another Broad Street resident asked if the fields will be for ALL schools? Mr. Franklin said that Holy Trinity will have them reserved for specific times during the week, but the fields will be open to everyone when not being used by Holy Trinity. Another resident said he has seen dog training going on at the park and remote-control air planes. Also, gun shots are heard all the time now; Police Department is wonderful. Now that there is a basketball court put in at the school, kids are there all the time after dark. A Resident said he has seen homeless people at Southside Park. Another resident commented that the normal grass cutting schedule will not be sufficient and that insurance will be needed by the School. A Resident said there are

problems with golf carts flying through Southside Park, too. Resident who lives across the street noticed 4-wheelers and dirt bikes because they shine their lights in her house. Don Starkey said he was on the Southside Park Committee. He said before the city signs the MOU, they should think about the “where, how, when” and parking. Ms. Hipp said she was also on the Committee from the start and the list that Mr. Franklin talked about tonight was a “wish” list. Mr. Hipp said she also agreed with Mr. Starkey’s comments. We didn’t want something so busy that it disturbs our area, she said.

Barbara Chemsak said practice versus games will bring in totally different situations. It is a “passive” park.

Resident said the trail that is being done seems to stop at a ditch and asked what is the situation? Mr. Franklin said a bridge is being installed. Ms. Chemsak said what is the plan for the sidewalk on the other side? Mr. Franklin said no plan at this time. Ms. Chemsak said another sidewalk is needed for safety. Mr. Franklin said he would look into this. Ms. Chemsak asked if there will another meeting about Southside Park after this one tonight. City Manager, Mr. Prokop, said tonight was just an “FYI” for you all. The next step is the MOU then it will be go before Council for a 1st reading and then a 2nd reading.

NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Waste Pro, Linda Roper, Director of Downtown Operations, said we are in our high leaf season and so its hard for Waste Pro to right now and some areas were missed. Ms. Roper reminded the group of the ordinance requirements for bagging yard and construction debris. If you have been missed, please put in a complaint by going to the Public Works website, she said. Going through the website is better than calling. Ms. Roper said she may be calling you if you put in a complaint to make sure it was picked up and that you were satisfied. Resident said his area (Fripp Street) is a Wednesday pick up and its been 3 weeks now after putting in a complaint. Ms. Roper said she will address this issue. Resident asked if yard debris can be put in the can. No, has to be bagged or bundled, Ms. Roper said. A trash compactor is being looked into and may be running by the end of May, Ms. Roper said. Mr. Taylor showed a photo on his phone of yard and construction debris stuffed into a trash can; this is not what we want. Dave Easton asked, “what is the schedule”? Ms. Roper said the City of Beaufort’s website has a list of residential collection and recycling collection. Mr. Easton asked, “what about debris”? Ms. Roper said that is picked up the same day as your trash.

The Greenery, Linda Roper, Director of Downtown Operations, said now we are handling the core districts downtown; fertilizing and putting down chemicals for better turfs; and power washing the sidewalks.

City Public Works Department, Lamar Taylor, went over the following projects:

Pigeon Point Park:

- Installed 5 pieces of equipment in the playground (2 merry-g-rounds, mushroom, swings, and repaired some sidewalk areas);
- Received quote for fencing to be placed around the playground area (west side). Estimate start of project mid-May; and
- Signage going up at toddler's equipment showing the age limits; issues with adults on the equipment and breaking.

Waterfront Park:

- Repaired sinkhole on west end near Horse Carriage areas (near seawall);
- Corrected pavers at Scott Street entrance into the Park; and
- Purchased additional table and chairs for park.

Southside Park:

- Repaired dog fountain and purchased additional benches and tables to be staged when items received; and
- City to provide a u-dump for volunteers to remove rocks from the dog parks.

Depot Road Trail Head:

- Additional parking and handicap ramp was completed; paved the entry way onto the trail head and approaches.

Drainage:

- All Hancock drainage has been completed (East and Pinckney);
- 401 Port Republic has been completed.
- Battery Shores ditch maintenance has started.
- Design Drainage Projects:
 - Battery Shores Outfall
 - Twin Lakes Outfall
 - South Hermitage Road Outfall
- City-Wide Drainage Task Forces Updates – attending meetings, good discussion, and ideas of how to approach.

City Street Paving:

- Paving by SCDOT from Woods Bridge to Greenlawn Drive
- CTC paving out to bid that includes:
 - Charles St Extension
 - Jericho Woods (Joshua Circle and Joshua Court)
 - Stone Martin subdivision
 - Craven from Carteret to Beaufort River

Mr. Taylor said his department is preparing for the FY19 Budget. We are also reviewing funds for sidewalk repairs with possible remaining funds.

Ms. Rodgers asked for the time frame for the paving. Mr. Taylor said before the summer is over.

Mr. Godley asked if the City has access to a street cleaner. Mr. Taylor said yes, and one is in the shop and we lost a driver, too. For now, our Operations Manager is going to driving. Resident asked about the Bladen Lane paving. Mr. Taylor said it will be in the next round to go before the CTC.

Peggy Simmer asked about Scott & North Street. Mr. Taylor said its in the works. He's been talking with Neal Desai and we might have to take it over since SCDOT has not a lot of staff now, he said.

Mr. Starkey said there are bad intersections due to landscaping and no stop signs; hard to see anything. Mr. Taylor said if one is seen to email him. Mr. Starkey said he will send Mr. Taylor an email of the areas. Mr. Godley said one is at First Boulevard and Ribaut Road. Another resident referred to the "Welcome to the City of Beaufort" sign; obstacle for drivers coming from Piggly Wiggly.

Resident asked said we need more bathrooms on the Spanish Moss Trail. Mr. Godley said there are 2 port-o-johns. Ms. Anderson said on our "wish" list, we have plans to install a bathroom in the Depot Building. If we had more retail businesses that would help.

Mr. Starkey commented that Boundary Street looks great without the poles.

Ms. Rodgers thanked the City of Beaufort for the 4-Way Stop Sign on Bladen Street. Mr. Taylor said Bladen and Duke will be next.

Director of Downtown Operations, (including parking), Linda Roper, said the day dock construction is still ongoing and should be done by May. The barge that is at the east end of the promenade is there to work on the 14 pilings; should be done by 2nd week of July. This will not impact any of the Waterfront Park events/festivals. Ms. Anderson said she saw the men grilling on the barge. Ms. Roper said they are working 10-12 hours days, so they are not working on the weekends.

City Fire Department, Captain Tim Ogden, said he wanted to add to the City Manager's comments about the Port Royal fire that all the smoke detectors were going off when we arrived. Captain Ogden reminded the group that the Fire Department goes out on Saturdays to install, free of charge, smoke detectors. If you have a smoke detector giving you trouble, we can come out and look at it. He said unfortunately, many houses still don't have them.

City Police Department, Lt. Squires, said there are no specific crime trends. He reminded the group of the 9 O'clock Program. He said there is a fraud scam going on via the phone and to be aware that your caller ID may have a suspicious number. Lt. Squires said some of things that have been going are: officers have been at the Kindergarten and Elementary Schools; Active

Shooter training on Saturdays at local churches; mentoring apartment complex managers; meeting with the Girl Scout Troops; and the City of Beaufort Movie Club will be starting in June. We have the speed trailer out on Pigeon Point Road and it recorded 28,000 vehicles passing with an average low speed of 28.8/30 mph. The crash car is at Beaufort High School for awareness of texting and driving. Lt. Squires gave an update on the United Community Task Force Sports Program. He said the Greene Street Gym has opened their doors to the kids, too. The baseball games at Beaufort Elementary are going great, however we still need more volunteers.

Resident said he lives next to the Pickle Factory and its become very dangerous. Chief Clancy said this is private owned property. Resident asked, "what are the City's risks"? Ken Meola, City Code Enforcement Officer, said unfortunately, it's an ongoing battle; had it boarded and within a week it was broken into. Mr. Meola said he will contact the owner again. Lt. Squires said our department will look into again. Resident suggested a wireless security system. Mr. Godley suggested putting it on Facebook. Chief Clancy said we will reset the information on Facebook.

City Manager, Mr. Prokop, acknowledged Lt. Squires and Officer Phelan (not present) for their great job in participating in the United Community Task Force Sports Program by interacting with the kids and playing baseball. Mayor Keyserling said since the kids were no longer allowed to have activities at the Boys & Girls Club since it became a school, we had to start something for them. When the United Community Task Force Sports Program first started there were 30 kids in the first week and now we have 80 plus, he said. He commented that he has enjoyed watching Lt. Squires stand on the mound pitching for the baseball games. Mayor Keyserling thanked Lt. Squires. Lt. Squires said we have less than 16 adults. Ideally, we'd like to have 1 volunteer for every 5 kids. The Fire Department has been volunteering their time by coming by when in the area to show the kids the fire trucks. Mr. Mattingly recognized the Northwest Quadrant and the Old Commons as the main support for this amazing program. Ms. Singleton said her grandson's teacher called her to say he received a smiley face on his paper. Ms. Rodgers said she could help with serving meals. Resident said, Dawn is organizing the volunteers. She said we also need a driver to help transport some of the children and also to organize the food. Ms. Simmer said Artworks told her that they would love to get the kids involved with art. Lt. Squires said this would be great.

Resident said the renovations being done at the United Church on Hamar, promoted the United Community Task Force, will be done June 1st.

Chief Clancy said there is a 21-year old boy reaching these kids and interacting with our officers and now he is putting in an application to be a Police Officer – this is great!

Mayor Keyserling said in the beginning, Officer Phelan, himself, and Reverend Jack went knocking on doors and when some 6-8-year-old girls opened their doors, he told them this program probably wouldn't be something they would like, and they said, "yes, we will"! And now we have cheerleading team, the Mayor said!

Codes Enforcement, Ken Meola, said he's working on the vacant and abandoned buildings, but it can take a while to solve. He said for anyone to contact him if they see something and he will put it at the top of his list.

Boundary Street Project, Libby Anderson, said Neal Pugliese could not be here today but said, "you can see the project is going good". City Manager said it should be completed in the next 2-3 weeks. We are anticipating a ribbon cutting ceremony June 1st. Its good to know we are 3 months ahead of schedule and under budget, he said. Ms. Anderson said, if you remember, this all started with a plan from all of you and now it's finally becoming real. She thanked the group for their support! Resident asked about the area with all the dirt and dirt trucks. Ms. Anderson said there is a plan for a lot of new things in this area.

City Planning Department, Libby Anderson, said the Planning Department's ongoing projects are:

Currently:

- 5 new houses (2 in Northwest Quadrant and one in the Mossy Oaks area)
- Retreat at Lady's Island, 80-unit, retirement facility received their Certificate of Occupancy (CO)
- Navy Federal Credit Union received their CO

DRB:

- Boundary & Newcastle – USCB Student Housing is ongoing
- Firestone Tire is being reviewed on a staff level
- Caliber Collision (Old Parks Chevrolet Building)

MPC:

- Approved Preliminary Subdivision Plat for Whitehall Subdivision

City Planning Department, Brian Franklin, said regarding Washington Street Park, recently we've had some local community meetings and developed a concept. The next phase will be sending out bids for bathrooms which we hope to be done this year. We are also working on a landscape plan and putting out a grant with Deborah Johnson's assistance.

City Manager said the new lights on Boundary Street will hopefully be activated today.

Ms. Anderson informed the group that Bruce Skipper is returning to the City of Beaufort initially as the Building Advisor and there on July 1st as the Building Official.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

The Glebe, Phil Hodges, said has concerns with the Pickle Factory.

Mossy Oaks including Twin Lakes, Resident, said some type of gas line is on his property at 2709 Mossy Oaks Road, but no one can tell him what it is. Mr. Taylor will look into it. Ms. Chemsak said more people are coming to these meetings because of the issues with Southside Park. She feels this meeting may not be enough and a private meeting is needed.

Northwest Quadrant, Dave Easton, said their Association Meeting is tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. He said the Meet and Greet in the park was great.

Old Commons, Peggy Simmer, said their Association Meeting is April 19th at 6:00 p.m. Deborah Johnson and Mike McFee will give us an update of the Washington Street Park. Also, at our May meeting we will have USCB and then a fundraiser on May 12 which will be the same time as the Fish Fry. Mary Harvey gave a description of the upcoming events. Ms. Anderson said she can send out information via email.

Pigeon Point, Rod Mattingly, said his community is having their first Park Crawl on May 6 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Godley mentioned the fundraiser that the School Board is having on Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mayor Keyserling said we were very focused this year at our retreat. We need to work very hard on jobs; we are losing young people due to income going down. We are weak on not providing things for the people who grew up in Beaufort. He said, "We are not going kick stormwater down the road anymore. We are never going to catch up on patch work. Public Safety is important too. Mayor talked about the barge at the east of the Waterfront Park and said, "there will be ongoing maintenance and we need your support." Catching up on infrastructure is our main focus. We've started the budget process and each department is presenting their budget to Council; meetings are open to the public. He commented that the Assessor's Office doesn't have the figures yet.

Ms. Rodgers said, "Kudos to Libby Anderson for her email list." She provides great information about all the City of Beaufort meetings, events, etc.

City Manager referred to the comments by the Mayor about the Assessor's Office not having the figures yet by saying the assessment is not ready because this is the year of re-evaluation of all our properties. We haven't raised taxes in 12 years. When you get your tax bill remember 25% is only of the City.

Next Meeting is May 16, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.