

25 June 2008

WEEKLY MEETING OF NWQ STUDY GROUP

Attending from the Study Group: John Gadson, Dwayne Smalley, Henrietta Goode, Bob Pinkerton, Pete Palmer

Not attending: Al Hefner, James Bellew

Attending from the public: Mayor Keyserling, Evan Thompson, Donna Alley, Collin Davidson, Naomi Lewis, Mark Krueger, Jay Weidner, Shannon Honl, Charlotte Brown, Dick Morehead, Garrett Budds

Key Points Were:

- As applicant friendly as the Historic Review Board is, few owners in the NWQ have much understanding of the review/approval process.
- Description of current zoning and planning for the NWQ can be found at “www.cityofbeaufort.org/planning”.
- There is more than a little confusion and inconsistency in how SCE&G rules will apply to property owners as well as where the very tall poles will eventually be placed. This just makes the planning process more difficult for property owners as well as any recommendations this study group might make. It also makes the application of form based codes much more complicated.
- Evan Thompson & Naomi Lewis offered a description of how the information Evan has compiled can be shown in three D – specifically in the central four block area we are focusing on. This will make any presentation which we make to City Council easier to grasp as well as professional in appearance.
- Dwayne Smalley is planning to conduct surveys this weekend – focusing on the four block central area of the NWQ. He has identified persons on each street, known to the other inhabitants, who will accompany the TCL student volunteers.
 - Capturing the data collected will be a challenge – and, at least for the time being, Dwayne will be entering the data into the Access Program.
- The first Community gathering to explain what this study group is doing will occur at the Greene Street Gym at 6 PM on 8 July. This is open to the public and all of us are invited.

- Operation Good Neighbor (OGN) and Habitat can and should be important partners in ongoing work in the NWQ – for clean up as well as demolishing some buildings that are dangerous to the neighborhood but that the owners can not afford to deal with. In previous years, OGN had access to Beaufort City machines that enabled the clearing and disposal processes. Hopefully, we can re-open this avenue of cooperation.
- Mark Krueger has sent a challenge to Clemson architecture students and is conveying the same challenge to local (Beaufort) architects, to a competition, in drawing up plans for appropriate sized homes in the “Q.” This would include making use of new technology to reduce the demands on the electricity grid and other eco-friendly techniques.
- 1401 Duke Street is an almost perfect site for an urban design center and/or place where property owners could go for counsel/advice on what they might be able to do to improve/stabilize, build or make more use of their property. Evan and Mayor Keyserling are pursuing this possibility.
- We have spent the past six weeks getting educated. Meetings in the month of July should focus in at least some degree on the creation of outlines of what we have learned and are going to propose to City Council in August.

Humbly Submitted by Pete Palmer