

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on January 15, 2014 at 10:05 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.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Captain Jordan Cochran and Sgt. Marcy Sanchez from MCAS gave a presentation regarding the activities at MCAS. They spoke about the aircrafts such as the new F35 which is in progress; the safety for troops and their families; and the budget of what is provided to the nation including combat and humanity missions. They gave an overview of the ranks (for example, 6% are females), economic impacts in the Beaufort Area as well as the history of the air station which is 70 years old and their most busiest year was in 1996. Jason Mann from MCAS said the air station is allowed up to 88 aircrafts but there not all always on base due to economic reasons and deployments. He also spoke about the capabilities of the F35. They have a 50-year lifespan and are built to be aboard a ship or on shore. Captain Cochran showed a video of the aircrafts. Also in attendance was Colleen Barrett from the air station.

Public asked about dirt removed across from the air station. Jason Mann explained that this was temporary used for the new hanger construction. Colleen Barrett from MCAS said by using our own dirt, we have saved the air station 5 million dollars. **Pete Godbey** said dirt used for residential construction is much different than the dirt that is being used for the hanger construction.

Captain Cochran went over the future of MCAS. He said they used to have 182,000 Marines and now they are going back to a smaller unit. He showed before and after pictures of the training center, new hanger, and the 2 major projects that were associated with the F35's. There will also be security upgrades for the F35 program and 5 additional landing pads.

Mr. Godbey asked about the housing for trainees. Captain Cochran said Laurel Bay is sufficient because it's never full to capacity. And they also can live in town. Captain Cochran passed out the MCAS Year in Review for 2013 newspaper and encouraged everyone to visit the air station for a tour. He said their contact information is inside the MCAS newspaper.

NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Waste Pro, Lamar Taylor, said the new trash-recycle schedule seems to be going good. Some residents were experiencing issues with the new schedule, but Mr. Taylor encouraged them to be patient for about a week or so since we just started the transition.

City Public Works Department, Lamar Taylor, said the upcoming city projects are: the downtown lighting bid (construction to begin later this year); the SC DOT and county are to install new mast arms at Charles and Bay, and Craven and Carteret; bidding for Duke Street Phase II (construction mid-April or May); received grant for Water Quality Project (mid-summer); received grant for SC DOT for Allison Road (mid-summer); downtown marina upgrading for transit dock; and mooring fields.

Dave Easton asked about a sink hole on the Waterfront Park Promenade near the pavilion. He said the cones are missing still and he mentioned this at the last meeting. Mr. Taylor said he will look at it again. Mr. Easton also mentioned 1305 Washington Street which has the trash can always out at the street. He also mentioned this at the last meeting. Mr. Taylor asked if anyone lives there. Mr. Easton said yes an elderly woman. Mr. Godbey said the all in one trash day is making areas look much better. **Resident** at 604 Park Avenue said the trash at his neighbor's has not all been taken. **Mr. Whitehead** said he had some problem with his yard trash being picked up. Mr. Taylor reminded everyone that this is still new and we will need to give some time to get all the kinks worked out. **Edie Rodgers** said Waste Pro had lots of Christmas trees to deal with at the same time. She also asked about the resurfacing of Battery Creek Road. Mr. Taylor said we had to stop because it was too cold and will resume in March. **Christina Wilson** said her trash has been left of for 2 weeks now. Mr. Taylor said let's let it run its course and then we can address it in another week or so.

Mr. Whitehead said Waste Pro has stuck adhesive notices to some of the houses in The Point and he feels this is inappropriate because it runs the paint on the houses and also lets people know that you are not home and can be dangerous. He also asked about the power at Knott Park at King and East Street. Mr. Taylor said there is a corrosive issue with replacing the receptacles and we are working on it.

Merritt Patterson asked about the status of the New Fire Department building. Libby Anderson said it's ongoing and we are working with the surrounding property owners. Mr. Patterson asked if it will be under the Form-Based Code. Ms. Anderson said no it will be under the current code.

Mr. Godbey asked what will happen to the Fire station in Mossy Oaks. Captain Robinson said there haven't been any discussions yet.

Resident asked if he can put the moss from the trees in his trash can because he cannot bend over due to his handicap. Mr. Taylor said no because it's treated differently. He suggested calling Waste Pro or taking it to the County's dump.

Codes Enforcement, Dawn Boren, said she is dealing with unlicensed vehicles. She also visited Christina Wilson's area and sent out violation notices.

Resident asked about the grass violation he received. He feels his grass is not as bad as others that he's seen. He said he's paying someone to come twice a month to cut the grass, but only can cut the grass once a month in the summer since its getting costly. Ms. Boren said some houses are owned by heirs and they are hard to reach. Ms. Boren reminded everyone to call her or Libby Anderson if they see any overgrown yards.

City Fire Department, Chief Negron, gave a year in review for 2013. He said January 1 to December 31, there were 15 fires for the City and Port Royal (3 total losses; 2 just minor). We've responded to under 3,000 calls for service. He said these are good rates and it's due to our prevention programs such as Early Detection and Awareness and more people know more

on how to react to an emergency situation, both adults and kids. We also look at plans prior to building commercial structures. Other news, on Friday, he will be hosting Leadership State at the Burton Fire District. They will be demonstrating fully involved fires v. sprinkler systems. February 9 the International Battalion Chief speaker will be at TCL all day. And at the Fire Department we will be talking about the Rays Systems that make air monitors. **Resident** asked if all city firefighters are volunteers. Captain Robinson said it is a combination of paid staff and volunteers.

Donnie Beer mentioned that she is involved in the Red Cross and now they have expanded to Colleton County. She praised the Fire and Police Department for their services.

Spanish Point Resident asked if there are powered smoke alarms. Captain Robinson said yes, and they should be inter-connected.

Captain Robinson reminded everyone that he can have a fire truck come to any resident in the City of Beaufort or the Town of Port Royal to install a smoke fire alarm.

City Police Department, Chief Clancy, said there has been a car break-in in the Spanish Point neighborhood where one suspect was arrested and the other suspect was identified. He said in Mossy Oaks he had a call from a resident about some suspicious activity and they found a gun and marijuana. In the Pigeon Point neighborhood they have recovered a stolen pistol and made an arrest. Chief Clancy reminded everyone to lock their cars and to keep calling the Police department when they see unusual activity.

Resident at 604 Park Avenue said he has speeders in his area that cut through. Chief Clancy said he will put him on the “hot spot” list.

Joan Sedlacek asked if the break-ins in Spanish Point were teenagers and did they live in the area. Chief Clancy said they were teenagers and one of them lived in Spanish Point.

Beaufort Housing Authority, Angela Childers, said she appreciated everyone who stayed at the Council Meeting until 10:00 pm because she had to leave early. She said there is a new program the County has put together called which can be accessed at by going to www.affordablelowcountry.org.

Ms. Anderson asked Julie Bachety, to put a link on the Planning’s website to the county’s new website for affordable housing.

Merritt Patterson asked if they are affiliated with the new buildings behind Bi-Lo. Ms. Childers said no we are not.

City Planning Department, Libby Anderson, talked about the city’s items that were on the recent Council agenda. She also said there are 2 rezoning applications: Craven Street from Office Commercial (OC) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC) and the other one is the Marina Parking Lot. She said regarding the apartments behind Bi-Lo, there are 3 lots that are going to

be annexed into the city, but no official submittal has been made yet for the apartment proposal.

City Planning Department, Liza Hill, said Basil Green is moving forward and repairs are being done to the Spanish Moss Trail due to erosion. She also mentioned the Adopt-A-Trail program. Mr. Godbey said they did a great job with the water runoff, but he noticed stacks of rocks in the county drainage ditches. Ms. Hill said the rocks are there to slow it down, but she will still look into it.

Ms. Anderson referred to the question about the MCAS dirt and referred to the Hilton Garden Inn who decided to do the same thing to save money.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Cottage Farm, Mr. & Mrs. Hopey said there was a property sale and construction should start soon. There are 14 vacant lots left. Ms. Hill thanked Cottage Farm for adopting a portion of the Spanish Moss Trail.

Hermitage Road Area, Phil Hodges, said he will encourage his group to adopt a trail.

Jericho Woods, Edie Rodgers, said their annual meeting is on the 25th and she will ask them about adopting a portion of the trail. Ms. Hill will send her the information. Ms. Rodgers also mentioned the visibility at the corner of the Shell Station on Ribaut Road. Ms. Hill will look at it.

Pigeon Point, Donnie Beer, said there are two housing going up. Higgionsville will now have a way to get into the park on foot, not by car.

The Point, Mr. Whitehead, asked about the status of the Commerce Park. Ms. Anderson said she was planning to have Jessica Bridges from Lowcountry Economic Alliance speak today but she is out of town due to a death in the family. She will be here next month.

The Point, Merritt Patterson, said on Laurens Street, there are saturated wet trees in distress. He said Beaufort-Jasper Water came but didn't fix it. Ms. Hill will look into this.

Fred Mueller, Islands of Beaufort, asked about getting Mink Point Boulevard pot holes fixed. He said he's already tried talking to Brian Flewelling and the City, but not anyone at the State level. Mr. Patterson suggested speaking with Rob McFee. Ms. Hill referred to the meeting where Robert McFee, Director of Engineering and Infrastructure, Beaufort County, was present and she thought he said, "This area was re-categorized". Ms. Hill will provide him with Mr. McFee's contact information. Ms. Rodgers said Wendell at SC DOT's number is 843-524-7255 if needed. Ms. Hill said he is not in the office due to a car accident.

Next Meeting is February 19, 2014

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.