

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **January 21, 2015** at 10:00 a.m. City Hall in the Planning Department's first floor conference room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were the Neighborhood Association Representatives and City Staff.

CITY WALK SUBDIVISION – MAC ROGERSON, EAST-WEST COMMUNITIES

Mac Rogerson with East-West Communities gave a presentation on the new subdivision, City Walk, along with Dan Keefer, Land Planner, from Bluffton. Mr. Rogerson said locally they have purchased Pinckney Retreat three years ago. Mr. Rogerson said City Walk Subdivision will be a non-gated community; will blend with downtown; a walkable community with a walkway to downtown; and sidewalks with connectors. They are planning to save as many trees as possible per Liza Hill. The Waterfront view will be kept open and will remain part of the subdivision. Mr. Rogerson said their plan is to preserve the look on Huguenin, such as the tree line and will have a pedestrian connection. The style of homes will be all different. All will be elevated with hardiplank. The tax roll to the City of Beaufort will be 20-21 million. This subdivision will help employ many people. The gates are open from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm if anyone would like to come see the area.

Mr. Rogerson asked if there were any questions. Fred Mueller asked how many homes will there be. Mr. Rogerson said between 45 and 50 and they will be 1,200 to 2,500 square feet. Joe Noll asked about the detention pond. Mr. Keefer said they are working on it still. Mr. Hopey asked about the price range of the homes. Mr. Rogerson said between \$325,000 and \$550,000 which includes waterfront and marsh front homes. Mr. Mueller asked if this would help the F35 and F18 folks. Mr. Rogerson said yes we are marketing them. The military can buy a home, rent it out, and then eventually retire there. Mr. Keefer went over some additional information regarding drainage, open space, and off-street parking that was previously presented to the Metropolitan Planning Commission. Isiah Smalls asked about the proposed surface of the alleys. It will be gravel said Mr. Keefer. Mr. Smalls asked if the City of Beaufort and POA's will take over the roads. Mr. Keefer said we'd love to have the City of Beaufort take over the roads. Mr. Smalls said we've taken over alleys and it's very expensive to maintain. Ms. Hill asked if the utilities will be buried. Mr. Keefer said yes. Mr. Smalls said if the services are on the alleys, remember our trucks are large and probably won't fit. Ms. Hill asked about the emergency access. Steve Baske said we are still talking to Chief Negrón.

Ms. Hill said City Walk will be heard again by the Metropolitan Planning Commission at their February 16 meeting. Ms. Hill said if anyone has comments, they can send them to her at lhill@cityofbeaufort.org or Libby Anderson at landerson@cityofbeaufort.org.

NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Waste Pro, Rob Scott, said things are going well. He reminded everyone that he has new drivers and they seemed to be doing good. Residents are doing good with the debris. He said tags are being left now for improper bagging. Mr. Smalls asked everyone to remind their neighbors to take in their roll carts because this is becoming an issue. A resident commended

Mr. Smalls for helping her because it had been 3 weeks since her pickup and Public Works responded quickly to her complaint. Another resident asked if there was a limit on metal, like a table frame without the glass. Mr. Scott said this would be a bulk pick up at no charge. He reminded everyone to utilize the Trac-E System which is checked daily.

The Greenery President said nothing to report. Ms. Hill thanked him for helping her with the Keep America Beautiful grant. She said The Greenery, as part of grant requirements, collected and counted cigarette debris.

City Public Works Department, Isiah Smalls, said the Duke Phase II is progressing. He said they have stormwater projects at Northwest and Scott St, Hancock Street, and Allison Road. He talked about contacting DOT regarding R-O-Ws and about street corner site distances that are on private property and how they have to deal with the property owners in these situations. Mr. Smalls talked about the lights out issues. He said we have 14 staff members at Public Works and unfortunately they all work during the day so we have to rely on the patrolmen who are out at night to report lights being out and/or broken and SCE&G then replaces/repairs them. He said to please continue call in about them. He said regarding the Waterfront Park lights, his request for funding to replace up lighting in the park was not approved but will ask for it again in March. He said we had problems with the contractor who put in non-waterproof lights and now the City is involved in a lawsuit with them. Councilman Cromer said it's an opportunity for crime when the lights are out. He liked what Chief Clancy said, "Be aware of your surroundings".

Joan Sedlacek reminded Mr. Smalls about the areas of flooding in Spanish Point at Spanish Point Drive and Fort Marion Road. Councilman Cromer said it floods in front of his house. Mr. Smalls said Public Works will check to see if storm drain is clogged. He said Spanish Point is now on the paving list. He said tonight he will be going before the CTC to request funding to replace sidewalks at Southside Park and for pavement issues. James Ruffin from the Point asked about the sidewalks and paving in his area. Mr. Smalls said he did receive an email from Paul Michau. Tree roots are an issue, Mr. Smalls said. He asked Mr. Ruffin to send him an email.

Ms. Hopey said the storm drain on Glendale in Cottage Farm is still missing the grate near the island. She said this is dangerous especially for children. Mr. Smalls said he will look into it.

City Fire Department, Steve Baske, Fire Marshall, said last night council approved the new fire station to be located on the property next to the Bowling Alley on Ribaut Road. The tower truck has been sold and replaced with a ladder truck. Also, we now have seven firefighters able to go out and do business inspections that are using a new type of computer software that is great.

City Police Department, Chief Clancy, went over the recent murder that happened on Wilmington Street. He said there wasn't much evidence at the scene, but they were able to make some arrests. Since it's still ongoing he cannot give out too much information. He said

this was a case involving a girlfriend and a child custody case. He also talked about the sexual assault that was reported late in the Waterfront Park. He said the victim and the suspect arrived at the scene together and left together. The victim did not report the rape until later that afternoon. Chief referred to the recent article in the paper that stated that Beaufort's crime was increasing. He said the reporter he spoke with misinterpreted his words which led to this horrible and not true headline. Reporters also have misinterpreted the FBI's numbers which then creates more false information. And the FBI's website even has a disclaimer. Chief read the section from the disclaimer that referred to the "misinterpretation of information". A good example of this is when he heard someone say, "Beaufort is as dangerous as Chicago". Chief said he uses the FBI numbers to go against his numbers. Chief said the City's overall numbers, according to the FBI Report, were 979 in 2008 and 957 in 2013. He said for murders our numbers in 2008 were zero, 2004 were 1, 2010 were zero, 2011 and 2012 were two, and 2013 were zero. Robberies are down. He said this information will be posted on the Police Facebook Page and it's also available on the FBI website.

A resident commended the Police Department for solving the murder in one week. Chief thanked her. He said his officers need to be commended as well. The resident who lives kiddie corner to the scene, who was one of the callers, said compared to what she sees in the newspaper, our police are very responsive but also feels crime is increasing. She referred to the lights out at the Waterfront Park, and Washington & Wilmington Street and said this does not help but only adds to the crime. She asked if there was a more pro-active approach. She also referred to House of Tang that has been consistently robbed. These are all good points, Chief said. Some areas though are not in the city such as the House of Tang. Chief recently gave a seminar on safety and only 5 people showed. Some tips are: as a business owner you should have at least 3 people on staff when opening and closing your business and have someone watch your house if you can when you are away. Another good tip is to look at your business/house from a suspect's point of view and see what can be changed to make it safer. Chief referred to some ATM videos he saw where a guy was hiding in the bushes and constantly looked out to see who was at the ATM and he only attacked the person alone. He reminded everyone to call when they see something suspicious no matter how small it may seem. We can't stop crime 100%, but we can deter them and push them out of our area. He said he just made an arrest on Monson Street and the suspect lived on Monson Street.

Bill Prokop said regarding the lights out, our risk management team is out right now walking through areas to see what's out and where lights need to be. Chief Clancy said our officers that see lights out will report the pole # to SCE&G. Resident said she sat under a broken light when at the Boat Parade and there were three other lights out. She said there has been anxiety in the neighborhood since the murder took place and she wished they had someone come in to calm us down. Chief said this area is a good example of reclaiming a neighborhood because it was an extremely bad area years ago. The Good Neighborhood Program helped clean it up.

Liza Hill, Planning Department, went over projects she is working on:

- Rear entrance into Pigeon Point Park is complete. Park entry sign to be posted.

- Southside Park: Clearing work done; asphalt path work connecting tennis courts to park to start soon; dog park in 30-60 days.
- BJWS&A doing in-kind work on weekends.
- West Street Extension: Demolition and repaving to be done; plans being generated; necessary due to trip hazardous.
- PTAC meeting is tomorrow at 3:00 pm and we are going to evaluate some of the parks including Southside. Our Board now consists of 2 landscape architects and 2 certified arborists.
- Public Art Review process: First reviewed by PTAC and then by City Manager and City Council for approval.
- Eagle Scout: A young man doing this project is still in the “fundraising” stage and has raised \$11,000 to date.

Ms. Hill also mentioned there will be a ZBOA Workshop to discuss short-term rentals on February 12 at 5:30 pm in City Council Chambers. Ms. Hill has a list of all the approved short-term rentals for anyone to see. She recommended that each neighborhood send one or two representatives to the workshop. Councilman Murray asked who the chair of the PTAC is. Brad Hill, Ms. Hill said.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Hermitage Road Area, Joe Noll, said he understands there will be historic markers for the new portion of the trail from Depot to North Street.

Island of Beaufort, Fred Mueller, said they have four houses under construction and four additional new homes. He said the City Walk Subdivision is good news for all of us.

Mr. Isiah said regarding Mink Point Boulevard, the contract is led by DOT. The weather has put paving on hold but this will be the first paving project to be done.

Northwest Quadrant, Dave Easton, said they are searching for a new meeting date and place. He will keep everyone updated.

Pigeon Point, Councilman Murray, said Rod Mattingly is up north. He said Mr. Mattingly is happy about the re-entry into Pigeon Point Park. Ms. Hill said the plants for Pinckney Park have come in. Councilman Cromer said the Pigeon Point Neighborhood group has a great relationship with the City by providing funds for the city to use for putting in plants.

The Point, James Ruffin, referred to the parking issues. Mr. Ruffin said the social media is a good idea. Councilman Cromer told everyone to check out the city’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CityBeaufortSC.

Spanish Point, Joan Sedlacek, referred to the triangle area in Spanish Point at Fort Marion Road and Stuart Town Road that has badly broken concrete areas. She said SC DOT inspected this and then turned it over to the city. Councilman Cromer said it's very bad because there are very large chunks of asphalt. Ms. Sedlacek said the driveways in this area are also a real mess and she has emailed the mayor about it. Mr. Smalls said if BJWSA performed the work, it is their responsibility. Ms. Sedlacek said kids are playing there and riding bikes and may get hurt; will the city be liable?

Next Meeting is February 18, 2015

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.