

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **February 17, 2016 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.

Libby Anderson acknowledged Councilman, Phil Cromer, and asked if he had anything to report. Mr. Cromer said regarding the obligation bonds, we will use the money for deferred maintenance projects. Next Thursday and Friday is the Council's retreat and said if anyone has items they want council to consider to let him know.

Waste Pro, Curtis Dansby, said the complaints are down; repeated violators of the recycling program will be included in a report that is forwarded to Lamar Taylor and Cora Lee Shoemaker at Public Works. He reminded everyone that plastic "is not allowed" in the recycling cart. Regarding solid waste issues, service was delayed yesterday but taken care of this morning. We are still working on replacement carts and will be done by the end of May, he said.

Lamar Taylor agreed that the complaints are decreasing. The community is getting used to the new program and its great he said. He thanked everyone for their cooperation. Resident asked who we call if we still have an old cart. If it's unsafe, we will put a rush on it to be picked up, Mr. Taylor said.

Resident asked if they could clarify about the plastic bag issue. Mr. Dansby explained further. Josh Gibson asked what type of bags. Mr. Dansby said any type of plastic bags - - grocery, trash, etc. Resident asked if documents that are shredded should be bagged and then placed in the recycling bin. Mr. Dansby said to just put the shredded paper in the bin. Resident asked if shipping plastic like bubble wrap is allowed. No, said Mr. Dansby. Mr. Dansby said he can be reached at 843-645-4100 for any questions.

The Greenery, Chris Newnham, said we are working on general maintenance.

Southern Palmetto Landscape, Denver Fox, said we are working on right-of-way cuttings. We are done in Old Commons and now finishing up in Floyd Heights and Pigeon Point, he said.

City Public Works Department, Lamar Taylor, asked Liza Hill to talk about the status of the Dog Park. Ms. Hill said we had a lot of clearing to do since it was previously occupied by BJWSA. We had 46 volunteers who filled a sway car of stuff, she said. Ms. Hill thanked Barbara Chemsak and William Waskiewicz. Another cleanup might be in two weeks. The donation of hanging baskets is good but we can always use more, she said. Bartlett Tree Service has been hired to do some pro-bono work along Bladen Street where the overhang is on the new installed trees from the Bladen Street project; pruning at Black Chamber; and clearing on Bellemay Curve. Resident asked when the dog park would be complete. Ms. Hill said maybe today or tomorrow. We need to do some seeding and smooth grading. The seeding might need to settle before opening and she will let everyone know and post a sign. Ms. Anderson said she will put information in the Neighborhood Newsletter, too.

Lamar Taylor talked about some fence issues. We are also working on easement cuttings, he said. He received a compliment about the Waterfront Park from the residents who walk in the morning. We have received quotes for hazardous trees and one 40" live oak tree has been removed from City Hall and we have 12 more throughout the city. Today, we are trimming trees at Beaufort Elementary and Cannon Park. The SC Department of Transportation (SC DOT) did a portion and we will do the other half. Mr. Taylor gave an update on some bids. Upcoming projects - - Cottage Farm is having asphalt done and will be complete in two days; Jericho Woods drainage problem is complete; and working on a city-wide community drainage clearing.

Barbara Chemsak asked who we call about drainage issues specifically on Center Drive, East. Mr. Taylor said to contact Cora Lee with his office and she will put them on a list.

Jack and Katie Rupard, new residents of 1303 Church Street, asked what they can do about an easement problem that came with the house. Mr. Taylor said we handle this easement and back in 2012 a tree fell that left damage. She noticed City of Beaufort workers putting up a fence yesterday and said no one spoke with her. We were told the easement was not being maintained right, she said. Mr. Taylor said the city can't have dogs out when we are there working. Ms. Rupard said they won't be out. Mr. Taylor mentioned that the City Planning Department spoke with Council and requested that the City retain ownership of the easements (alleys). Mr. Taylor said, long term if it develops into a medium-density, the easement will be very important. Ms. Rupard said she wishes the City would have talked to her first because we are not the problem. Mr. Taylor gave Ms. Rupard his direct office number so they can work out something.

James Pickard asked about the status of the day dock. Mr. Taylor said it is in permitting with a conceptual plan.

Josh Gibson asked if the drainage behind the downtown post office has been contracted. Mr. Taylor said yes but the bids came in too high. Councilman Crower asked Mr. Taylor to explain why the bids were higher. Mr. Pickard asked about the Craven Street curbs. Mr. Taylor said five to six most critical roads were asked for. Ms. Anderson said it's the 800 block of Craven Street. Mr. Taylor said they did the section next to Bill Harvey's office previously if anyone wants to see it.

City Fire Department/Code Enforcement, Fire Marshall, Tim Ogden, said we met with the City of Charleston regarding how they run their programs. He reminded everyone that he and two part time workers are out on the streets and if anyone see violations to contact him or send an email to citycodes@cityofbeaufort.org. James Pickard asked who enforces the Spanish Moss Trail with dogs not on leashes. Lt. Squires with the City of Beaufort Police Department said they enforce the Leash Law. Lt. Squires said to call the non-emergency number at 843-524-2777 or e-mail him at csquires@cityofbeaufort.org if dogs are seen on the trail without leashes. Ms. Anderson said the non-emergency phone number is on our contact sheet.

City Police Department, Lt. Squires, said he's been appointed to the Community Response Officer from Patrolman. He said to be cautious when driving on Boundary Street in the am hours and noontime because the sun is blinding and traffic right now is tight with the Boundary Street project. Also the speed limit on SC 170 to Boundary Street is lowered to 35 mph due to the project. We've had the speed trailer requested for different streets. The new golf cart patrolling the trail this week in the AM and PM. He referred to the newspaper article about the crime at Walmart and Beaufort County Schools and said the numbers reported are not accurate. For example, one incident was when an 8 year old hit another 8 year old with a bungee cord; it's not a crime. Also, we had some forgery issues and 2 foot chase cases.

Building Codes, Bruce Skipper, said with spring coming we will have projects needing permits so remember, you will need a permit for any work in the city. Obtaining a permit is important, he said. Mr. Skipper referred to an applicant who enclosed a porch and added windows without a permit and the consequences for not having the permit. He reminded everyone to review your insurance policy and encourage everyone to have flood insurance. The flood insurance is fairly cheap and well worth it even if you aren't in a flood area, he said. Mr. Skipper referred to the upstate Columbia storm. Jericho Woods resident asked if a permit is required to repair an existing fence. Yes, said Mr. Skipper. Jericho Woods resident said there is a scenario where someone has a 4 foot fence with extenders on top to keep in a pit bull. Ms. Skipper asked how much power does their HOA has. Ms. Anderson asked if the resident called the city to report it. Ms. Rupard said she was told there is nothing she could do until the dog did something. Resident in another area said she has a pit bull and if they are trained right, they won't be a problem. Ms. Anderson and Lt. Squires asked for the address. James Pickard asked if a shed needs a permit. Yes, said Mr. Skipper. Mr. Pickard said a resident in his area was told by the shed company that a permit wasn't required. Ms. Anderson said this is not true. Regardless of the size, a permit is required. In a PUD, you will need an approval letter from the ARB. Ms. Kelly said it sometimes comes down to terminology issue. Lt. Squires said a permit is a good way of keeping shady contractors away. Mr. Skipper said if your contractor cannot give you a good reference, don't use them. Lt. Squires said to call the City of Beaufort Business License Department to verify they have a business license. Mr. Skipper said also a permit card is supposed to be visibly posted on the site. Lt. Squires said if there is no permit card seen, it gives the Police Department permission to go on the site in case it's a robbery.

City Planning Department, Libby Anderson, said Lauren Kelly will be giving an update on our new code. We're almost done and will be visiting the neighborhoods to explain the code to residents, she said.

City Planning Department, Lauren Kelly, gave a presentation on The Beaufort Code. (See attached information sheet) She said the overall purpose is to implement the goals of the City's Comprehensive plan and more specifically, the vision set out in the City's Civic Master Plan which serves as the framework for the New Code. The goal of the new code is to have a document that is all of the following:

- Is easy to read, understand and use;
- Streamlines the development review process;
- Makes the outcome of the development process more predictable;
- Preserve historic, natural and cultural resources while promoting appropriate new development;
- Encourages change as envisioned by the Civic Master Plan;
- Results in appropriate infill in existing developed neighborhoods;
- Promotes economic development;
- Supports public capital infrastructure investments that have and will be made;
- Allows opportunities for diverse housing types in neighborhoods ripe for change; and
- Discourages drivable suburban development and encourages walkable urban places.

Also, the code will update the City's ordinance into a document with language, structure and intent that is compatible with the new, similar ordinances that have recently been adopted by Beaufort County and the Town of Port Royal.

The goal of the new code is not to eliminate the Historic District Review Board (HRB) or to minimize the number of nonconforming uses or buildings; or to keep things the same. We are transitioning from primarily use-based zoning districts to context-sensitive Transect-based districts. We are creating more defined building standards that reinforce the goals I previously outlined and building in mechanisms that allow more flexibility for staff to review projects that meet the intent of the Code. The information discussed today is all on our website at www.cityofbeaufort.org/beaufort-code.aspx. Ms. Anderson thanked Ms. Kelly. Mr. Hopey asked about the minor and major home occupations. Ms. Anderson said the older PUDs like Cottage Farm, Jericho Woods, and Cedar Grove don't have current standards, but hopefully we will be able to convert them to the new code. Ms. Anderson explained the differences of the Home Occupations. Ms. Kelly said the code is basically the same regarding home occupations. Mr. Pickard asked if the plan is to make the City of Beaufort more walkable, because we don't have any sidewalks on Salem Road. Ms. Anderson said this is 1 of the 3 development needs for priority grants. Ms. Kelly talked about the carryovers from the Civic Master Plan to the New Code and said Allison Road is an example. Ms. Anderson referred to the Bostick property and the Family Dollar on Ribaut Road. Mr. Gibson said when will the new code be in affect? Ms. Kelly said the goal is to have it adopted by the end of June 2016. Resident asked about the Historic District zoning change designation. Ms. Anderson referred to the Summary Sheet that outlines the changes to this area versus the old code. Resident asked if the goals are enforceable. They are guidelines, Ms. Kelly said. Ms. Anderson said the goals inform the standards. For example, the "shalls" equal standards and the "should" are more flexible. Ms. Anderson said we're trying to be more specific with less grey areas.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Battery Point, James Pickard, said BJWSA dug a hole on Bartram Drive and laid gravel on top, but wasn't sure if they were done, and asked who to call. Ms. Anderson assumed they're

coming back, but said to call BJWSA. Ms. Anderson said she would give him a contact person and phone number after the meeting. Mr. Pickard asked about the clearing of the underbrush by Lowe's. Ms. Anderson said it might be for an upcoming development but wasn't 100% sure.

Ms. Anderson asked the resident from The Bluff who she should contact about the Broad Street PUD.

Hermitage Road Area, Libby Anderson said Mr. Hodges had to leave but asked her to report on the trail. The trail is open at the Depot to Broad River Boulevard now and the signal is almost ready. Ms. Chemsak said she saw a sign saying the signal will be operational on Friday. Ms. Anderson said the Cox Foundation is working on the next "north" segment.

Jericho Woods Resident referred to the curved area and said there are now reflectors but they don't help. Residents are afraid there will be an accident. Lt. Squires suggested a speed bump because it's most effective and referred to the one in Battery Point. For private roads you will need to ask your association and for public roads it will be DOT, he said. Mr. Skipper suggested getting with the Fire Department as well because there are FDA Standards for the fire trucks. Ms. Anderson said they can contact Lamar Taylor at Public Works for a sign. Ms. Anderson referred to Charleston in the Battery for a good example of speed bumps. Cora Lee Shoemaker with Public Works said this issue was addressed in the past but DOT told her the speed bumps were going away due the damage they do to fire trucks and police cruisers. Lt. Squires suggested making the road a one-way. Ms. Anderson said she will look into the Charleston information and let them know.

Northwest Quadrant Resident asked about the trees at the proposed Harris Teeter. Ms. Anderson said the project is in the design review process for a tear down and rebuild with the building being close to the street with the door and windows on the street; more urban, she said. Harris Teeter wants most of trees gone and the back of the building to face Sea Island Parkway. Harris Teeter came to the Design Review Board (DRB) at their February meeting and was tabled so they can revisit their design. They will need a Certified Arborist, she said. Hopefully, they will be back before the DRB in March.

Old Commons Resident asked about the status of Prince and Duke Street at the Baptist Church. Ms. Anderson said they were only approved for the fence, not the project. Ms. Anderson said she will see if Ms. Kelly can meet with him after the meeting.

Ms. Anderson told the new Pigeon Point residents, Jack & Katie Rupard, that their association meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm at City Hall. Ms. Rupard said knows her neighbor is very involved.

Next Meeting is March 16, 2016

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.