

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **March 19, 2014 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.

Bill Keyserling, Mayor, was present and said council decided even if no project is pending on the marina, we are going ahead with the public hearing on April 8. He said council has spent an hour and half talking over every issue. He said a presentation will be next week, Wednesday, at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. Ms. Anderson said there is handout available today. Also, the mayor said people are wondering about the Local Option Sales Tax for Beaufort, Port Royal, and Bluffton. He said it is not on the ballot at the moment.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

PLANNING OUR FUTURE STREETS: 2040 LOWCOUNTRY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION—LAUREN KELLY.

Ms. Kelly started out by saying she did not prepare this presentation but thought it would be a good idea to show everyone. Based on the census, populations in the general area are growing so much that we're placed in a different area now. Ms. Kelly briefly talked about what the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) is and who is involved. She said the first step is to work on the Lowcountry Area Transportation Study which established a regional transportation vision and identified projects needed over the next 25 years to achieve that vision. This vision will be developed over the next 18 months. There are six main categories that will be looked at such as congestions and mitigation being #1, street being #3, and pedestrian improvement being #4. Ms. Kelly said she's not sure if the #1 category is actually our priority. She said the County is the coordinator of this site. The Interactive Map is neat and comments are key by the residents. She showed how it worked and encouraged everyone to spread the word about it. The most comments right now are from Sun City. Our needs are very small.

Mr. Mattingly asked how many MPO's are there. Ms. Kelly said we are one of the new ones. Ms. Anderson said there are 10 other MPO's including Greenville, Spartanburg, Charleston, and Columbia. Mayor said we got into this by luck. He commented that the questionnaire is easy and only takes about 5 minutes to complete. He suggested a link be put in the neighborhood newsletters regarding the questionnaire. Ms. Anderson agreed and said we didn't have to join. Once established, we are guaranteed to receive a certain amount of federal money which will then be distributed among its members. Mr. Mattingly said it's a privilege to be able to express ourselves. It's fabulous. The public asked when the money is awarded and how much will it be. Ms. Kelly didn't know the specific amount and Ms. Anderson said she would check. Ms. Kelly said the goal is fiscal year 2015. In 2012, it was estimated the Lowcountry MPO would secure approximately \$2.4 million.

NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Waste Pro, Rob Scott, said by now everyone should be adjusted to our 3-line a day cycle. He said the yard debris is going well. There were some delays because of the large amounts of debris now that is being picked up.

The Greenery, Chris Hudson, said we've been setback a bit due to the cold weather. Spring is tomorrow and you will start seeing more of our employees out and about. He said the quarterly neighborhood cutting will be at the end of this month. He said to call him with any questions or concerns.

City Public Works Department, Isiah Smalls, Jr., talked about ongoing projects that are all happening at the same time such as the paving, new mast arms on Charles St., and the new street lights. He did ask everyone just to be patient. Mr. Smalls said he called a massive meeting yesterday due to the many parking issue complaints. The mayor asked about the pot hole on Rodgers Street. Mr. Smalls said he called SC DOT and they've been delayed due to the weather, but will continue hopefully tomorrow. Mr. Mueller suggested making a map of what was uncovered under the street. Mr. Smalls said it's hard to keep up with what's what and where it is, but we're trying to write it all down.

Codes Enforcement, Dawn Boren, was absent. Ms. Anderson asked if there were any concerns; there were none. She reminded everyone to please contact Ms. Boren if they see anything.

City Police Department, Chief Clancy, said he received an email from the USCB security saying there are people acting like USCB students trying to sell magazines for a trip to Paris; it's a scam, Chief Clancy said. If anyone shows up at your house, call the police because door-to-door soliciting required a background check form the police department and a business license from the City. In other news, he said they had one gun shot at the Elks club on Church Street. These 2 folks are well-known to the police department. We found no evidence or witnesses. Our investigator is working on it. Mayor said there are a number of real estate websites reporting crime rates. He said if you go on them, you will see it seems Beaufort has lots of crime. The information that is being in the Gazette is used is from the County's Sheriff's map and so sometimes the addresses are not in the city. Chief said the mayor is revering to the FBI Crime Statistics. He said he's heard that our crime is just as bad as Chicago's. The only way to get the true numbers is to call the police department or go around to our neighbors asking them about the area. He said he did our numbers from 2010 and they are lower. This information can be found on the City website (www.cityofbeaufort.org). He reminded everyone that they have to be careful when looking at crime statistics. The police department has the most accurate answers versus the internet. Anglea Childers said she deals with all county police departments. She's actually had some refuse to write a report for her. She asked if this affects the numbers. Chief said yes because this is what we go off of. He also said he reports at the end of the month to SLED. Resident, Mr. McDermott said he came across a non-local real estate website which gave crime rates. He thanked Chief Clancy for the clarification. Chief said we are going to a new dispatch system that all agencies in the county will be on. Public asked what the "nixle" is? Chief said it provides people with a text message with a link for their area. You sign up for this app through the Beaufort County Sheriff's office or the City Police Department's Facebook page.

Beaufort Housing Authority, Angela Childers, said they have implemented the 2014 Consolidation Plan. Their huge rehab project for new HVAC's, heating systems and installing doors is progressing. She said they are doing a big rent study due to their rent fee increasing to

\$25. She found with the study that 30% of renters pay late each month; March is the least amount of late payments, maybe due to taxes being done; June and August are the highest late fees; and 35-39 year olds pay late rent the most.

City Planning Department, Libby Anderson, went over some planning items:

- Next Wednesday there is a public meeting at 6:00 pm for the Parking Marina Lot Redevelopment.
- Public hearing Tuesday, April 8 regarding Marina Parking Lot rezoning, at 7:00 p.m.
- She and Lauren Kelly established a special assessment for dilapidated houses also known as “The Bailey Bill”.
- Next month’s association meeting, the Deputy County Appraiser will be here to speak

City Planning Department, Lauren Kelly, spoke about the new Board/Commission pages on the Planning Department’s website and how it can be accessed. Ms. Kelly said basically once you are on the website you need to: click Projects tab, Projects under Review tab, and then choose the name of the Board on the right side. There are links to each agenda, the minutes, the plans, etc. We are also transitioning to showing all of the submitted documents at the meetings on our projector screen.

City Planning Department, Liza Hill, said the Spanish Moss Trail construction from Laurel Bay Road to 170 will start Monday. We anticipate it being completed in three months. A letter of intent was made for the Southside Park Recreation Funds for activities and trails. We are also working on a grant for Basil Green. Between now and May 31st the work will be going on.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Cottage Farm, Mrs. Hopey said the two street lights were moved and working good. We are also sprucing up our area. Ms. Anderson said she saw Ms. Hopey painting the street signs. She did a good job.

Dixon Village, Gene Rugala, said he’s on the Spanish Moss Trail Committee and there will be two fundraisers coming up: (1) April 4 at Hemmingway’s with live misc and food all day. All proceeds will go to the trail; and (2) May 6 at Breakwater will be all proceeds going to the trail.

Mossy Oaks including Twin Lakes, Edna Horne, said we need more people to take time out and care about how their area looks. Can we help, the mayor asked. She said if you can get people to stop blowing debris where it doesn’t belong.

Pigeon Point, Rod Mattingly, said Dawn Boren saw three things in our area. It’s the one property on Lafayette Street that has been an issue for a long time now.

Next Meeting is April 16, 2014

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.