

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **August 15, 2012 at 10:00 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.

#### **PRESENTATION ON HAZARD TREE LIABILITY**

**Jay Taylor, Kinghorn Insurance**, gave a presentation about homeowner's insurance and hazardous trees. Mr. Taylor said when it comes to hazard trees and insurance coverage most likely the insurance company will not pay the homeowner to have a tree cut down; there has to be liability involved. On your property, if a tree that appears in good health falls on your neighbor's property, your neighbor's insurance will pay. Your insurance would pay if you were negligent. If lightning strikes and kills a tree, yes the insurance company will pay for it. However, if a windstorm knocks down a tree, the insurance company will not pay for it. Donnie Beer asked, for example, if I know I have a problem tree that caused damage, does the insurance company pay? Mr. Taylor said, yes. Fred Mueller asked if there is a vacant lot, is the owner responsible for trees falling onto an existing house. Mr. Taylor said this would be treated as if there was a home there. Mr. Taylor said during these situations its best to send correspondence to the property owner by certified mail or e-mail, and make sure to take pictures. Christina Wilson asked if a tree is close to each of the homeowner's property line, who actually owns it. She also asked what happens when a city-owned tree falls down. Mr. Taylor said the City and/or an attorney should address both situations. Mr. Taylor spoke about Coverage A which is a windstorm percentage coverage. It was asked, what the typical coverage is for associations. Mr. Taylor said streets, roads, and common areas such as pools.

Libby Anderson said regarding the public right-of-way trees, the City is working closely on this with the SC Department of Transportation (DOT). She reminded everyone to contact Liza Hill, City Landscape Architect, to have trees assessed if you think the tree is in the right-of-way.

#### **PRESENTATION ON HAZARD TREE LIABILITY**

**Michael Murphy, Bartlett Tree Experts**, gave a presentation on the determination of hazardous trees. Mr. Murphy spoke about three topics: (1) Tree Risk Assessment, (2) Structural Defects, and Conditions that Affect the Tree Failure, and (3) Potential for Failure (see attached). He said tree failure is tree species specific, such as the tree issue at 2203 Bay Street. He referred to his handout and said this is a good resource for homeowners doing a home tree assessment by themselves to show them what an Arborist looks for. Regarding the utility lines, Mr. Murphy feels by cutting out the inside of trees it's not beneficial for the tree.

Ms. Wilson asked how a homeowner can tell the difference between the three oaks (Live Oak, Water Oak, and Laurel Oak). Mr. Murphy said they have different leaves. Mr. Taylor said when applying for new home insurance, the insurance company probably will do a "tree" evaluation of the property.

Ms. Anderson referred to the tree damage on Bay Street and asked Mr. Taylor how long should the insurance process take. Mr. Taylor said for hurricanes, a mobile structure would be set up

with an adjuster on-site. For non-hurricane issues, like the tree on Bay Street, the process should not be any longer than a few days to a week.

### **PRESENTATION FROM HARGRAY**

**Rodney Cannon, Hargray**, spoke about the excessive pole issue. Mr. Cannon said at the last utility Coordination Meeting, they talked about the excessive poles and they will be taken care of. He said for people to first contact Liza Hill or Libby Anderson so they can notify Hargray and/or Century Link. He said Hargray is taking over Charter and all Charter poles should be removed by the end of next year.

Christina Wilson asked about the issues with the basic channel networking. Mr. Cannon said he would look into this for her. Mr. Cannon said there are still negotiations going on and certain channels may or may not come back. He said the Charleston channel would not be back. He suggested people send in their request to Hargray. He said there is one more year left until the government says, "all must be digital". Jim Berbigler referred to the downtown area near Duke and Prince and said this area needs to be leveled off. Mr. Cannon these poles will eventually come out because the lines will be underground.

### **NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS**

**Waste Pro, Jim Berbigler**, talked about the bamboo and said it cannot be serviced, so please have it cut and let Waste Pro know when it is "tucked away". The Islands of Beaufort representative asked if there is a quote needed for the damage in their area. Mr. Berbigler said no we want the professionals to do it but the owner is on vacation. He said we'll give it another week and then find someone else.

**The Greenery, Jerry Ashmore**, said we survived the Water Festival. The next festival will be Lt. Dan in September. Regarding the park, we put in 26 tons of sand and the park looks good. In addition, free yoga is available at the park on Sundays. In the communities, we are now doing our quarterly rounds. Lastly, the rain has brought some storm debris and we are working on the weekends to clean this up.

**Capt. John Robinson, Fire Department**, Reminded everyone about Hurricane Preparedness for their business as well as their home and pets. Ms. Beer said Hampton Animal Hospital has a kennel that you can pre-register your pets to stay at and they can be reached at 803-943-5806.

**Libby Anderson, City Planning Department**, said at our next Planning Commission meeting on Monday, August 20 at 5:30 pm we will be reviewing a rezoning request for Whitehall, an annexation request for Parker's Convenience Store & Gas Station and new stormwater requirements. Lauren Kelly talked about a program called Safe Routes to School Day that will be for the areas of Beaufort Elementary School and Mossy Oaks Elementary School. She said the city will be helping them implement this program and volunteers are needed. It will begin in mid-October and she will let the group know what the routes are going to be shortly. Ms. Anderson said Council considered at their meeting last night on-street parking for the Beaufort Elementary School on Pilot Street.

**Police Department, Chief Clancy**, said the Water Festival this year was low-key with the lowest number of arrests in awhile. Chief also talked about the incident when the truck hit the top of the Woods Memorial Bridge. SC DOT did an assessment and there was no structural damage. Chief said he has a plan set up for things like this with the County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Port Royal Police Department to re-route traffic and it worked well this time. He also mentioned the attempted robbery on Bay & Scott Street recently involving two elderly men at around 9:50 pm. A patrolling officer happened to be in the area but the three suspects fled and were not found. There is an ongoing investigation. Lastly, he talked about the U.S. Marshall program that his officers have been through. This is very helpful because now we can find more fugitives. He referred to the murder at Subway.

Mr. Berbigler asked if the City ever thought about a secured monitored camera for businesses. Chief said we've looked into it before along with Donnie Beer by applying for a grant. Ms. Beer said we need to revisit this. Chief Clancy said the last time we looked at this was when the Waterfront Park was re-done. Ms. Beer referred to the cameras in London and NYC.

#### **NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES**

**Peter Palmer Buff Rep**, said progress is being made with the water line replacement.

**Hermitage Road/Ribaut Road Rep, Phil Hodges**, said we are still a new association and looking for ideas. He said they have met with the Redevelopment Commission and Office of Civic Investment who have been very helpful. We did an assessment of our area and we have 19 blocks, 317 lots, and 690 residents. We've also created an email newsletter and are working on post card we can send out to our area for association information.

**Islands of Beaufort Rep** thanked the city for support for the repaving of Mink Point Boulevard.

**Islands of Beaufort Rep, Fred Mueller**, said where Port Royal and the City abut (Tanglewood and Mink Point Boulevard) a tree has fallen. Mr. Berbigler said if it's cut, he can take care of the rest. Ms. Anderson said she would tell Linda Bridges in Port Royal.

**Northwest Quadrant Rep, Dave Easton**, said there meeting will be Saturday, August 18, at 11:00 am at the First African Baptist Church. Ms. Wilson said they are still working on the Washington Street Park.

**Pigeon Point Rep, Donnie Beer**, mentioned that the Pigeon Point Park will be closed starting Monday, August 20, in order to make repairs to the play equipment. She said the estimated time for the repairs will be approximately two weeks.

**Spanish Point resident** asked about the SC DOT driver sprayed the edge of the road that deals with Ribaut Road. Ms. Anderson said re-paving would be done from Ribaut Road to Reynolds Street in September between 10 pm and 5 am. Capt. Robinson said BJWS&A will be replacing the valves that are in the road and moving them out of the roadway.

## **GUEST**

**Carol Smalls** spoke on behalf of the Community Circle of Hope Coalition. She said this coalition allows the Charles Lind Brown Community Center at 1001 Hamar Street to re-open and have activities for the youths. Their Grand Re-Opening was this past Saturday. The center will be open Monday – Friday, 6 to 8 and Saturday, 12 to 5. We will be offering martial arts, computer classes, ceramics, double-dutch, and much more. She said we are looking for volunteers and other talent services from the community. An after-school program will be implemented for this year with tutoring, homework, and mentoring. Ms. Smalls said the coalition was started because of the youth crimes. Now we can help redirect the mindset of our youths. Ms. Anderson said she would send out the volunteer application to the group via e-mail. Chief Clancy said the “circle of hope” is a good example of what a “real” community is like. He commended everyone involved and recommended everyone to stop by.

Ms. Beer reminded everyone of the 9/11 Memorial Service on Tuesday, September 11, at 8:30 am at the Waterfront Park. She said it should last about an hour.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.



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## TREE RISK ASSESSMENT

Level 1: Limited visual, 0. Level 2: Basic, 0-\$. Level 3: Advanced, \$\$-\$\$\$

### STRUCTURAL DEFECTS AND CONDITIONS THAT AFFECT THE LIKELIHOOD OF TREE FAILURE

Dead and dying parts      Broken and/or hanging branches  
Cracks, Seams & Ribs      Included bark      Junction shape  
Weakly attached branches and co-dominant stems  
Nearly equal size stems or branches      Adventitious branches  
Multiple branches originating at one point      History of failures  
Sudden Branch Drop (SBD)      Missing or decayed wood  
Sapwood decay or damage      Tree architecture-lean, sweeps & bows  
One-sided or unbalanced crowns      Live crown ratio      Taper  
Overextended branches      Root problems

### POTENTIAL FOR FAILURE

**Improbable** – The tree or branch is unlikely to fail even under severe weather conditions.

**Possible** – Failure could occur, but it is unlikely during normal weather conditions.

**Probable** – Failure could occur under normal weather conditions in the area.

**Imminent** – Failure has started or is most likely to occur in the near future, even if there is no significant wind or increased load.