

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **March 21, 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.

### **TREE BOARD UNDERGROUNDING UTILITIES PROJECT**

#### **BARB FARRIOR, CHAIRMAN, BEAUFORT TREE BOARD**

Barb Fariior gave an update on the undergrounding utilities project. She spoke about the members of the Tree Board and their roles. She also acknowledged Eliza Hill for recently becoming a Certified Arborist. Ms. Fariior said regarding the undergrounding utilities project, single phase line areas were the areas they concentrated on, primarily for reasons of cost. Cost to underground three phase lines, such as on Ribaut Road, are approximately 4 times the cost to bury single phase lines. 10 pilot project areas were selected, the criteria for selection based on 1) tree species and health 2) ability to easily loop existing lines and 3) cost effectiveness. Areas chosen were the Point, Pigeon Point and Mossy Oaks (A). Ms. Fariior stated the board will continue to look for grant funding sources.

Question was asked about undergrounding of utility connection to private homes. Ms. Fariior stated that cost would be absorbed by the homeowner. Point resident requested copy of color coded SCEG map of existing lines in the Point. Eliza Hill said she would supply. Terry Hussey said there is a Preservation Tax Credit that can help residents in the historic district. Christina Wilson asked if putting lines underground will preserve trees from continuous utility pruning. Ms. Fariior said yes. Also stated it should aid in reducing damage during hurricanes. Donnie Beer said right now it's an experiment since we are an already developed city. Libby Anderson mentioned the charrettes that took place over the last 12 months regarding this matter. She said hopefully funding will eventually be available.

### **BEAUTIFY BEAUFORT PROJECT – TERRY HUSSEY, THE POINT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Terry Hussey said Paul Michau spoke with City Council and there was much support. She said the Beautify Beaufort Project supports these underground lines. She is also trying to establish a group of volunteers such as high school students, the Garden Club, etc. Ms. Hussey mentioned other projects that have been going on to help beautify Beaufort such as painting the fire hydrants, removing, replacing and painting street signs, and something duplicate poles. She has a petition circulating asking the utility companies to consolidate and/or remove poles. The future projects they are working on are cemetery work, working with the Redevelopment Commission (RDC), working with local artists on their logo, and working with a local architect. Ms. Hussey suggested to the neighborhood representatives to get more involved; and do a survey of their community of things that need to be done. The petition was passed around to be signed. Ms. Anderson thanked Ms. Hussey for all her work. Ms. Hussey said she can be contacted at 379-9302 if needed. She also said she will send Ms. Anderson an email that she can then send out to everyone.

Ms. Anderson reminded everyone if they do see any duplicate poles to let her, Liza Hill or Isiah Smalls know. It was said if there is any graffiti seen, to let the Police Department know.

Joan Sedalcek referred to an article on the problems of foreclosure properties and how people are going into these unoccupied houses and stealing things. She said she's glad Beaufort is not in this situation and supports the Beautify Beaufort Project.

Pigeon Point Representative, Claudia Webb, was present to go over the upcoming event at the Pigeon Point Park. She said the Pigeon Point Park has a committee since the park is now being heavily used. They will be holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> fundraiser to sell "memory" bricks. The event will be April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at Pigeon Point Park. Bricks sales will also April 21<sup>st</sup> through May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 am to noon on Wednesdays and from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturdays at the park. There will be city vehicles for kids to interact with from the Fire Department, Police Department and the Public Works Departments. She passed around a volunteer sheet and several examples of the event advertising.

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

**Jericho Woods Rep** said they have new officers.

**Mossy Oaks Rep** said the mayor's article in the Lady's Island news was great. He said the Fire Chief liked the street signs that were cleaned. The rep recommended using a window knife or putty knife when cleaning these signs. He mentioned that the street lights need to be looked at since the time changed to make it safer. He said SCE&G needs to make the school area a priority. He also said there are still lots of leaves from weekend yard work that need to be picked up. Ms. Anderson said anyone can contact either her or Isiah Smalls from Public works about the street light issues.

**Northwest Quadrant Rep** said they are progressing on ownership of the Washington Street Park and should have an answer by the next Neighborhood meeting. He asked about a neighborhood-wide cleaning. Terry Hussey said there is one scheduled for The Point at the end of April and we could coordinate with it. Christina Wilson said this is a great idea. She is planning the Easter Egg Hunt at the Washington Street Park on April 4 at 11:00 am. Ms. Wilson also mentioned that the street sweeper came through her neighborhood at 2 AM. Isiah Smalls went over the street sweeper schedule. He said unfortunately it's easier at night hours for them since there is less traffic activity. It is only once or twice per month in residential areas.

**Pigeon Point** – Donnie Beer said their fire hydrants will be painted. She also mentioned the 4-day golf tournament for wounded soldiers that will be April 23 – April 27. She passed out pamphlets. (See attached).

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

**Jim Berbigler, Waste Pro**, said regarding yard waste, if you have more 15 bags, to call for special pick up (there is no fee).

**Isiah Smalls, City Public Works**, reminded everyone not to use swales or ditches as deposit of leaves. It's against the law.

A public comment was made that the Greenery workers were blowing leaves into the ditches at 2600 1<sup>st</sup> Boulevard because he had to clean them out. Jerry Ashmore said he would look into this right after the meeting.

**Jerry Ashmore, The Greenery**, went over things they are working out such as: Azaleas are blooming; pollen and clover being taken care of; Arsenal improvements; the new Christmas tree; Waterfront park floral change outs will be the week of April 16<sup>th</sup>; high visibility site floral change outs; Taste of Beaufort; and Gullah Festival.

There was a comment made that the Waterfront Park pavement is breaking up and orange measles issues. Mr. Smalls said Public Works has been communicating with the manufactures and it will be fixed but may take a few months.

**Isiah Smalls, Public Works**, said the Bladen Street Streetscape Phase II is going well and will be the same design as Phase I. He said to call Public Works at 525-7054 to report signs that won't clean well. He said SCE&G has been very responsive to removing poles that have no lines. He also said to contact Public Works if anyone sees obstructed site lines, or low-lying limbs or trip hazards.

A public comment was made to have more concentration on the sidewalks near the schools.

**Lundy Baker, Lanier Parking**, said things are going well. He said tourists are up. He also said he's working with the City Manager and the Police Department and will be presenting something to Council.

**Dawn Boren, Codes Enforcement**, reiterated about leaving dumping. She reminded everyone to cut their grass now that the spring/rainy season is here; that basketball goals in the right-of-ways are not allowed; and to check on your elderly neighbors now that the weather is getting warmer. Mr. Smalls said there are 5 out at Public Works if anyone is missing one.

**Libby Anderson, City Planning Department**, invited everyone to the lecture next Wednesday at TCL at 6:00 PM. Ms. Anderson talked about the new light fixtures at Craven – Bay Street and Charles – Carteret Street. She also said there will be irrigation for the hanging plants associated with the light fixtures. The Sheppard fixture will be placed with a traditional fixture similar to the ones on Bladen St and behind the City Hall building. A photometric lighting plan is also being worked on.

**Chief Clancy, Police Department**, reminded everyone about car security. He said their department has made a recent arrest in regards to some car break-ins. He also passed around an informational pamphlet (See attached). Chief Clancy responded to the topic of foreclosed properties and since we all work together, through our neighborhood meetings, we will not have a similar situation that Ms. Sedlacek spoke about and referred to the Twin Lakes area. Chief said we as a City have a "low tolerance". Chief reminded everyone that there will be a 30

mile motorcycle ride with injured veteran's through downtown starting at City Hall on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 AM. He said this is a great event that changes many of the vet's lives.

**Community Response Team Officer** said their team specifically works on communities. He said we currently have 3 officers dedicated just to the Community Response Team (CRT). He encouraged people to invite him and his team to their neighborhood meetings.

Mr. Mattingly mentioned that there is a speeding issue on Rodgers Street. The Officer said he is already watching that area and it will not be a problem much longer. He said we can get a speed trailer up if requested. The Officer reminded everyone to call him at 322-7910 if there are any speeding issues in their area. The Officer also mentioned that he and two other officers will be going around neighborhoods knocking on doors to ask homeowners to complete a survey of their community. He passed around a sample of the survey (See attached).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.