A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on July 17, 2019 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.

**DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION (DBMA)**

Eric Thibault, President, and Kevin Cuppia, Vice-President, the Downtown Merchants Association (DBMA) They did not show.

**FOUR FUN FACTS – Heather Spade, Planning Tech, Planning Department**

Heather Spade, Planning Tech, went over her four fun facts for Beaufort that included the old Greenlawn Drive-Inn that was opened in 1950. This is how the street Greenlawn Drive got its name. Mr. Prichard asked what the building to the left was. Ms. Roper said, the SC DOT maintenance shed. Other fun facts were the Water Festival prior to 2019, the Birds of Beaufort of over 400 species, and historical facts about the City of Beaufort Police Department [See attached presentation].

**NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS**

**Waste Pro,** said they didn’t have anything new to report. Ken Meola said he is seeing great changes with the issue of “bagging”. Broad Street resident thanked Waste Pro for helping out with Broad Street. Ms. Roper reminded the group of the “debris pile rules” since its summer and snakes like to be around now. Remember, to be a good neighbor, she said. Mr. Meola said the limit is less than 50 lbs. and when it rains, it makes it heavier. Also, for limbs, they must be 4’ and bundled.

Ms. Harvey said the trash has been neglected several times on Duke Street. Sometimes it’s been 2 weeks in a row and all the way from Duke Street to Ribaut Road. Waste Pro changed the schedule for her area. Ms. Roper asked if Waste Pro told her. Ms. Harvey said, no they didn’t. Sue Sagui said she used piedmont moss bags for her yard debris, but Waste Pro didn’t pick them up. Ms. Roper said the bags must be disposable bags, but they should have picked up your bags. She will talk to Waste Pro.

**The Greenery, Brandon Duitsman,** said things at the Waterfront Park are going smoothly. We are doing some new plantings behind Saltus. After the Water Festival, some updates will be done at the Waterfront Park. He said regarding “watering”, the best time is early AM and late night. For fungicide, he said the main chemical to use are Heritage, Cleary’s Compass and Insignia which are both residential and commercial. He suggested everyone do a little homework regarding the label first to make sure it is the appropriate rate and that it’s acceptable for the type of turf they are looking to treat.

**Southern Palmetto Landscape, James Graham,** said street signs are now more visible. He said he received a call to say, “thank you” when they saw our truck. Regarding the National...
Cemetery, someone threw a bag of yard debris on the property and now it has promoted weeds; we fixed this. He talked about seeing dying trees in the City that are dropping limbs and reminded the group to call him if they see this. Ms. Sagui said at Prince and Ribaut where the big gully is on the southside where the water collects (to the east) looks like there is a break in the tree showing part of it fell. Mr. Graham said he will look at it. Mr. Graham reminded the group that during storms, irrigation systems are the weakest when struck by lighting and recommended having a GFI outlet. He said right now we have king and black snakes and recommended keeping them around because they will kill the poisonous snakes.

Resident, George Bach, asked about the two trees that are dead in the lake in his area of Twin Lakes because it’s dangerous. Neil Desai of Public Works said there is a drainage project ongoing and this will be addressed. Mr. Bach asked if it was for both ponds. Yes, and he talked with the contractor yesterday, said Mr. Desai. Mr. Bach said he was told something would be done for a long time now. Mr. Desai said we’ve had some price associations to work out and now we can move forward. Mr. Bach asked if it would be done in the next six weeks? Mr. Desai said he’s hopeful. Matt St. Clair, Director of Public Projects and Facilities, said we had significant budget issues that needed to worked out. Mr. Bach said he needs a date. Matt St. Clair said he is not going to give a date because things good change. Mr. St. Clair said he would talk more with Mr. Bach after today’s meeting.

Resident, Dan Ahern, said the TCL trestles were done good but when the dirt was filled in on the trail where it was low has no greenery and needs to be stabilized.

Resident at 2611 Live Oak Circle said the drainage ditch always clogs with junk and across the way is another clogged ditch. He said with the last rain, water came rushing up against his house and left dirt marks at 6-8” up and had wet carpets inside. He said he never had any water issues with the hurricanes. He asked, “how can we resolve this because I never issues prior to this”. Mr. Meola suggested he talk with Mr. Desai. He said he is talking with Mr. Desai, and nothing against him, but a gentleman did come out and said, “your house is too low”; this is unacceptable. Mr. Desai said he will meet with him after today’s meeting.

Another resident mentioned a tree (not sure if it’s a Live Oak or Laurel Oak) that is within the crutch and wires and asked who can remove the limbs? Mr. Meola said on private property, we don’t have permission to go onto the property and either does SCE&G. Ms. Sagui said to give notice to who own’s the property, so the liability is on them and not you.

Barbara Nash lives on Duke Street and said when the street sweeper comes through it doesn’t do a good job and leaves a mess. She also said the person who is blowing stuffing is blowing it everywhere on her sidewalk and porch. Mr. Meola asked who this is. Mr. Sagui said a city person wearing backpack blower equipment. Ms. Nash also said when the curb in front of her house was redone it had sod, she watered and now it’s just dirt. The guys cutting the grass are just cutting dirt. Ms. Nash also said at Duke Street between Wilmington & Monson Street, the crape myrtles are not doing well. Mr. Desai said he will speak with the Parks Department.
City Public Works Department, Neil Desai, said the parks and playgrounds are keeping them busy. We are doing street maintenance on Bay Street; in Pigeon Point and in The Point. He referred to the 8 mile drainage issue and their In-house drainage projects. Mr. Desai addressed the yard debris clogging drains and passed out some photos [see attached]. Resident, Beth Wildman, said area on Duke Street with the dip always has 2 grates clogged. Ms. Sagui said she reported this at this meeting two months ago. Mr. Desai said it might be a capacity issue even though there up to code; he will look into it. Ms. Merrill commented that Pigeon Point looks great!

Director of Public Projects and Facilities, Matt St. Clair, said regarding flooding, USC and College of Charleston are doing a Flood Voluntary Assessment for the City of Beaufort. This will help us with ongoing designs and where we prioritize and where our limited resources will go. He said this was started in May and the first draft will be done next month and then the final model will be ready the following month. Mr. St. Clair referred to the Jane Way clean out. Mr. St. Clair said other projects going on are: Greenlawn full streetscape; upfit roofs at the Arsenal which should be done by the end of August and next will be work on the windows and restroom; and pylon repairs at the Waterfront to start in August. Ms. Merrill asked, “regarding the drainage project, when you documented the big rains, do you see this more”? Mr. St. Clair said yes definitely. Resident mentioned on Adventure Street there are 2 big orange shaped signs that are covered up and wondered what they were. Mr. St. Clair said he’s not sure; not a city project. Barb Rader asked what is going on near the Beaufort County buildings. Mr. Skipper said they are demolishing the building to rebuild as a 2-story building. Mr. Bach said there was a lot of research done a few years ago regarding the flooding in the Mossy Oaks area that included Twin Lakes and asked if this information was used for the current assessment. Mr. St. Clair said, yes it was.

Director of Down Operations, Linda Roper, said the Waterfestival is here!! She went over the remaining events including the Bed Race this Friday starting at the corner of Bay and Harrington; streets will be closed. We will be recovering from the Water Festival next week and getting the park back in order. She mentioned that a few businesses downtown are accepting your Water Festival wristbands to get 5-10% off your purchase. Ms. Roper said the Downtown Merchants did not come today for their presentation because they were confused and thought they were attending the August meeting. Resident, Ms. English, asked about the pylon repair at the Waterfront Park. Ms. Roper explained what pylons are and that it is being fixed through a grant the City received. There will be minimal stress to the seawall. Also, a barge will be here for 2 months with divers.

City Fire Department, Jeff Anderson, Fire Marshall, referred to snakes and said he knows someone who was bit twice by a copperhead while in their yard. She was taken to the hospital where she was given several vials of anti-venom which are extremely costly. Mr. Anderson referred to the irrigation systems and said if grounded to the ground, if struck in storm, it possibly could start a fire in your house; recommends GFI and certain power strips. He went over the shelf life of smoke detectors saying it is 10 years; date is on the back of the detector.
Now that it’s summer and hot, he reminded everyone to stay hydrated. Dan Ahern asked if your cable has to be grounded, too. Ms. Sagui said Hargray doesn’t ground them.

**City Police Department, not present.** Ms. Nash asked if Mr. Meola could get a message to the Police Department. She said Sgt. Phelan, who was great and had a wonderful program, is no longer with the Police Department and wanted to know who’s his replacement because another person is needed. Ms. Merrill said he went to Bluffton; he lives in Bluffton. Mr. Meola said he will get with the Police Department.

**Building Codes, Bruce Skipper, Building Official,** went over some projects in the permit department:

- Longhorn, Aspen Dental, and Butler Car Dealership are all being constructed at the intersection of Robert Smalls Parkway & Burton Hill Rd;
- Ribaut Senior Village at 1224 Ribaut Rd;
- Retina Center at 1181 Ribaut Rd near the Spanish Point community;
- 2 4-Plex buildings at 410 & 412 Ribaut Rd for affordable housing; groundbreaking today;
- Kmart refacing and repurposing the building;
- Publix and linear buildings at Beaufort Plaza; and
- Tru hotel near Home 2 Suites and Substation Restaurant

Also, we have several new houses. He reminded the group that it’s hurricane season and they need to check their regular and flood insurance policies. Regarding the new flood maps, he said the new ones will not be out now until mid-summer of next year.

Glebe Resident asked about the status of Harris Teeter. Mr. Skipper said they merged with another company, but he hasn’t heard anything else. Resident asked about the rumor of a new movie theatre. Mr. Skipper said he hasn’t heard anything. Ms. Merrill asked about the adult daycare center that used to be the Boys & Girls Club Teen Center at the corner of Calhoun and Harrington Street; it doesn’t seem active. Mr. Skipper said he’s not sure about it.

**Codes Enforcement, Ken Meola,** said he doesn’t have anything to report and if anyone has questions or see something to call him.
NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

The Glebe, Barb Rader, said the Herban Market on Bladen Street is open and they have a pastry chef. The food is great, and the layout is similar to the old Herban Market with the huge barrels, etc. They did a great job, she said. Mr. Anderson said they have a great “beet” Rueben.

Next Meeting is August 21, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am
4 Fun Facts

Neighborhood Meeting 7.17.19
The Greenlawn Drive-In was opened around 1949-1950 and was operated by D.S. Polk. It was closed by the early-1970’s. Bi-Lo now stands on the site.
Greenlawn Drive In
Beaufort Water Festival
In the early days of the Festival, it cost fifty cents to attend the Beauty Pageant, one dollar per couple to attend the Water Festival Ball (which was later changed to the Commodore’s Ball) and two dollars to attend the Regatta Ball. The first weekend featured two days of sailboat races and the Regatta Ball. The following weekend began with the Beauty Pageant on Friday where the Queen of the Carolina Sea Islands was crowned. The parade and ski show, put on by the Beaufort Water Ski Club, and an air show highlighted the second weekend, in addition to the Water Festival Ball.
Over 400 bird species can be seen in South Carolina; and Beaufort County has over 182 species that are permanent residents, seasonal visitors, or passing through along the Atlantic Coastal Flyway, which brings large numbers of migrating birds to the area. Beaufort County also has a number of endangered species breeding populations, such as the Least Tern and Wilson’s Plover, as well as dozens of species that are on the United States Watch List.

Birding is the number one sport in the nation. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, there are 51 million birders in the United States and that number is growing.
The Beaufort Police Department was located at a facility at the Waterfront Park from 1955-1969. The department later moved to 705 Port Republic St. from 1969-1989.