

# **Schofield Community Association**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Thursday, September 22, 2022**

#### **Opening**

The first meeting of the reactivated Schofield Community Association (SCA) was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on September 22, 2022 at the Smith Hazel Recreation Center.

#### **Present**

Bill McGhee  
BB McGhee  
Mandy Nicoli-Drumming  
Warren Westcott  
Allen Riddick  
Sean White  
Wayne O'Bryant  
Laura Lance  
Lisa Smith  
John Howard  
Jane Page Thompson

David Bruzina  
Ann McGhee  
Todd McGhee  
Don Moniak  
Angela Cummings  
Anne Torreyson  
Raymond Wright  
Susan Stribling  
Millie Cummings

#### **Agenda:**

Purpose of meeting  
Identification of issues of concern  
Prioritization of lists  
Subgroups to discuss concerns and meet back with whole group  
Large group to form committees  
Volunteers for leadership roles  
Set next meeting date

## Open discussion:

- Question asked on windfall money. Don Moniak answered: there is \$25 million of the plutonium settlement money for Aiken downtown and northside redevelopment, none of it yet committed in terms of amounts or project. There is also \$900k that was allocated for RR museum.
- Bill McGhee discussed "downtown business area" which runs down Richland to Sumter. Areas east of Sumter not considered part of the city. Is reasonable to expect extension beyond Sumter, may be helpful toward developing empty buildings on Richland.
- BB and Bill McGhee opened topic of the City's "Demo 200 Program" for discussion. City eager to tear down vacant houses; charges owners \$200 or maybe \$250 to tear them down. Too many have already been demolished. The same money to tear them down and abate, which may be as much as \$20k, could be instead invested to help homeowners repair and improve home.
- Need numbers of demolished houses and the histories on that
- Aiken Council of Neighborhoods rental registry
- Fairfield Bridge discussed. Jane Page Thompson said that \$1 million had been appropriated to repair. DOT decided slope lines were too compromised. Current status is slated to turn into bike/pedestrian bridge.
- Stoney Gallman homes poorly maintained by City. Some of the windows boarded up. There used to be a park there.
- Neighborhood Parks discussed by Don Moniak re: recommendations in 2022 Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT) plan to close numerous northside neighborhood parks; higher fees being charged; increase not approved via legal City Council vote.
- Discussion on the PRT and Jessica Campbell.
- Bill McGhee discussed some lodges/historic buildings in SCA neighborhood and need to preserve them. Agreed on need to write about/share the histories on these buildings.

## Committees/Tasks with leaders/volunteers:

- List of demolished houses + histories — Mandy Nicoli-Drumming
- Bylaws etc: Lisa Smith (Neighborhood Leadership Manual for template).
- City Water issues: John Howard

- Publicity and flyers: Laura Lance
- Set up Facebook page: Ann McGhee
- Zoning: Sean White
- Downtown Business Zones: Sean White
- Street lights: Jane Page Thompson
- Identify vacant houses: LJ Mc
- Identify historic houses in jeopardy: LJ Mc

### **Committees/tasks in need of leaders/volunteers:**

- Playgrounds
- Branding
- Animal Control
- ADDA
- Fairfield St path/bridge situation
- Stoney Gallman
- Council of Neighborhoods
- Vacant commercial buildings
- Demo 200
- Committee to handle parks

Meeting ended about 7:30 but continued until after 8:00 with smaller groups informally continuing discussion from the meeting and with leaders/volunteers firming up their roles.

**Next Meeting:** Tentatively set for October 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Laura Lance



## **Introductions:**

Attendees each introduced themselves by name before meeting commenced.

## **Purpose of Meeting:**

Bill McGhee gave overview of the SCA, its missions, and goals as listed on meeting handout.

## **Identification of issues of concern:**

BB McGhee prefaced discussion with:

- SCA not a political organization
- Want to see neighborhood maintained
- Want to see neighborhood improved

Floor opened for ideas; attendees urged to state roles they'd like to play. Mandy Drumming listed ideas/committees on wall board.

## **Attendee input:**

- No streetlights at Williamsburg/Barnwell
- Streetlights absent throughout neighborhood (John Howard)
- What to do about houses left standing
- Need to contact owners
- Need to make lists of abandoned, threatened houses
- Need historic houses in jeopardy list
- Comment made: a list of vacant houses is readily available from City
- Wild animals (raccoons, possums, etc) wander streets at night
- Trash and litter are a concern
- Need to consider potential to develop empty business/commercial buildings on Richland
- Need numbers of demolished houses + histories on that.