

James Island Neighborhood Council
Minutes
Thursday October 22, 2015

The James Island Neighborhood Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2015 in the Council Chambers of the Town of James Island. The Meeting was called to order by chair Alan Laughlin. The following members were in attendance: Beth Burn, James Hackett, Mark Johnson, Alan Laughlin, Lyndy Palmer and Zennie Quinn. Also attending were Jack Cooper, Jerry Mallard and Mindy Schneider.

Crime Watch

- The JI Messenger has an article about the most prevalent crime on James Island. It is the same one that has been voiced to the Neighborhood Council for 3 years – Auto break-in to unlocked and unattended cars. And frequently the item that is stolen out of these cars is a handgun. This has to stop. If anyone has an idea how to get this across to the populace, please let us know. Anyone with information about these thefts can contact Sgt. Bryant at 843-554-2487 or Detective McCauley at 843-529-6205.
- Be wary of FEMA scams.
Area residents have reported being approached by people claiming to be FEMA adjusters. These are NOT FEMA personnel. You are urged to check identification and ask for a claim number that would match the one received when FEMA assistance was requested.
- The CCSO has some “ataboys”. We have had several occurrences of people parking on the roadways and at corners. In the last month, the CCSO has twice caused drivers to move their vehicles and stopped noisy dirt bikes from travel in residential areas.

Program

Tonight the program is a review and discussion of the “1,000 year event”.

There were several areas that did flood on the island. Teams were sent out from Town Hall to view the area and determine if roads should be closed or any other help needed to be sent to various locales. This took multiple days due to limited manpower. Results were brought back to Town Hall and appropriate actions were initiated.

The county distributed sandbags from Town Hall and after those ran out, from the Public Works yard on Riverland Drive. Eventually these ran out and the county was unable to obtain refills.

The Town needs to be applauded for the work it has done over that last 2 years in opening ditches and drainage paths. If TOJI had not done this, the island would have had many more flooded areas.

One suggestion for the Neighborhood Council – during/after any later events, members of the NC should look around their immediate surroundings and/or their neighborhood and call in to Town offices to establish where immediate needs are located. This is not to put anyone at risk, but during the event, if water is rising or if trees or powerlines are down and can be seen from house windows, then call in to the office. After the event, people know if something is wrong in their immediate area. This could be called in to the Town. It will shorten any evaluation and response time.

SPECIAL NOTICE: THE NOVEMBER MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED FROM THE NORMAL 4TH THURSDAY (THANKSGIVING) TO NOVEMBER 12 AT 7PM. ADDITIONALLY, THE DECEMBER MEETING IS CANCELLED SINCE IT WOULD FALL ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

Neighborhood Concerns

- Other than the recent “flood”, no one brought up any particular concerns.
- City areas – Even though the schools will be in session as a make-up day, the city of Charleston will be conducting elections on November 3. Be aware of congested traffic and increased foot traffic around polling places.
- COG – Residents are encouraged to look at the Riverland Drive corridor master plan and the Folly overlay plan. Additionally the COG is in the process of issuing a RFQ for companies to create a Regional Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan. As this advances, there will be more information.
- Charleston County – Harbor View Rd work continues and nighttime lane closures are continuing.
- PSD – The new collection plan will go into effect on January 4, 2016. If you haven’t already sent a returned a request for the size container you desire, please do so immediately. If you don’t state otherwise, you will automatically receive a 96 gallon container (the same size as the recycle containers. There are 2 other choices – 64 gallon and 32 gallon.
- TOJI - # of the current homes on Harbor View Circle are approved to turn into offices during major construction activities on Plum Island. Additionally, the Town has passed a “Fireworks” ordinance that controls the times that fireworks can be used. It is illegal to prohibit fireworks in South Carolina, so the Town limits approved times.

Emergency Preparedness

- Since Halloween is next week, Halloween safety tips were distributed (see attached). Residents are encouraged to make sure that they and their children are kept safe during the holiday.

Month Emergency Tip

- Other seasonal safety (attached)
 - Floods
 - Fireplace Safety
 - Generator Safety
 - Heater Safety

Input to the Town

•

Announcements:

10/24 James Island Connector run (connector closed from about 7am until about noon)
10/30 James Island Band BBQ Dinner (see town website for information)
10/31 Halloween
10/31 New Beginnings Church is having a Halloween festival
11/01 Daylight savings time ends (set clocks back 1 hour)
11/03 City Election Day (schools in session)
11/11 Veterans Day
11/12 NEXT MEETING
11/26 Thanksgiving Day

The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Submitted by Alan Laughlin