

Harbison Community Association Member Input Meeting
Harbison Community Center
03/28/2023, 6:00 pm

Board Members in attendance in person: Hank West (President) and Taryn Trefethen-Boileau. Staff members in attendance: Cindy Kellett, Executive Director; Kaden Watson, Director of Maintenance; Scott Lynch, Director of Facilities and Covenants; Danell Gunter, Program Director; Jackie Banton, Administration Manager; Nick Spencer, . Joining via Zoom due to Covid 19: Ozzie Nagler, Ray Cloutier and Yolanda Vinson, Julie Lucas (Vice President).

Mr. West called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Mr. David Rothfuss said he feels Harbison is Columbia's best kept secret. He also asked what the plans are for the old "Adlerian Childcare" space and mentioned several ideas, among those ideas he said that he knew summer camp was coming up and that he felt that space could be utilized to alleviate some of the congestion in other areas of the center. Mr. West replied that nothing was set in concrete, many options are being discussed.

Mr. West called on Ms. Sophie Cohn to speak. Ms. Cohn stated that she is concerned about the safety of the cul de sac (Beacon Hill). She stated that there had been break ins, trash thrown into their neighborhood from the apartments, and she wants the police to know that they need protection. Also, speeding on Columbiana Drive and would like to know why police aren't stopping speeders. Ms. Kellett responded that the community is working hard to resolve the safety concerns and that fines had been issued for litter and turned the floor over to Mr. Lynch, who advised that two tickets had been written for trash.

Ms. Debra Taylor brought up concerns about the house at 36 Cape Flattery, the renter had moved and left a dog. The resident advised that she had spoken with animal control, and they had left a tag on the door of the home. The resident also stated that when that home was previously vacant a chronically unsheltered person was living under the deck of the house.

Ms. Delores Cauthen asked about the status of a decision from the Board concerning Airbnb's in Harbison. Mr. West advised that the Board was looking at Covenants from other areas and municipalities for answers. Mr. Lynch stated that there are not as many Airbnb's currently in the Harbison area listed on the Airbnb website and that they had instituted a new rule regarding large parties being prohibited.

Ms. Susan Mangum initiated a discussion of speeders on Tawny Branch. Harbison cannot install speed bumps but we will post a Richland County "Traffic Calming" Policy which can be instituted by property owners. She also reported that 104 Hartwood Circle she believes 8 pit bulls are being kept in a small kennel in the back yard, and have been in the pen perhaps a year. The dogs reportedly killed a cocker spaniel.

Mr. James Hawkins said that police need to run radar on Columbiana Avenue, he said that school buses and Comet buses are driving 50 mph in a 25 mph zone. Mr. Watson, Maintenance Director said he had spoken with police and that Tawny Branch did not meet the number of cars requirement to have action taken to prevent speeders. (Also see Richland County "Traffic Calming" Policy).

Ms. Tammy Pierce spoke and said that she had lived in the Beacon Hill neighborhood since 2016. She reported that a neighbor said they were moving back to New York in 2017 as crime was less there than in Harbison. In 2021 she reported that she had an incident, and the police didn't come. Two weeks ago, 3 rounds were fired into her neighborhood. She reported that there was gunfire in Beacon Hill last Tuesday and Wednesday. She believes shots are now being fired as a warning to the neighbors as retaliation for Richland County Sheriff's focus on crime in Harbison Gardens. Ms. Pierce said that she

met with a principal at Irmo Middle School in 2020 and the principal said that a lot of the kids are dealing with PTSD. Something has to be done. Ms. Kellett thanked Ms. Pierce for all of her efforts and assured her that Harbison Community Association is working with all of the Representatives and Law Enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction in Harbison to come up with solutions and request assistance from City of Columbia and the owners of the apartment complex.

Mr. Hawkins advised that a red Honda Civic with black tinted windows had been seen in the area. Ms. Benjie Friday said that the police had received the picture of the red Honda Civic in the Costco parking lot that Mr. Hawkins sent and the police confirmed it was not the same car that was caught on camera in Beacon Hill. Ms. Kellett says that Richland County has been very proactive investigating these incidents.

Ms. Audra Hawisher advises that a CPD Officer lives in Harbison Gardens, but that doesn't seem to make a difference.

Ms. Cindy Lepore who lives in a Timberlake condo wants a tree removed that she believes is compromising her neighbor's foundation. Ms. Kellett provided her business card for Ms. Lepore to discuss the situation as it did not pertain to the whole community.

Ms. Diana Shupe would like to know the status of the homes being built on Piney Woods Rd. Mr. Ray Cloutier said that Great Southern Homes is waiting on all the approvals. Mr. Watson and Mr. Lynch reported that large machinery is clearing out the easement. Mr. Cloutier stated that there will be one ingress and egress to the 74 single family attached units that will be priced at \$175,000 and up and the homes will maintain the regulations of Harbison. Ms. Shupe inquired about availability of the plans for these homes. Mr. Cloutier advised that the plans for the homes can be seen by appointment at the Community Center.

Ms. Mary White expressed that she would like to have the center hours changed back to closing at 9 p.m. especially during daylight savings time. Staff will keep logs for 2 weeks to gauge time center is used in evening.

Ms. Benjie Friday from Beacon Hill said that not everyone feels safe in their own homes. She says the pathways aren't safe and she doesn't feel that it's safe to have her grandchildren playing in her back yard. Ms. Friday advised that her front glass door had been shot out and that several windows in her home had been broken with rocks. These incidents have gone on for years.

Ms. Kay Brown stood to say that she loves the new sign to her neighborhood, Hamilton Park. She also is concerned about speeders on Columbia Avenue. She asked why the sidewalks built by Irmo appear not to be completed.

Ms. Audra Hawisher stood up and said that her screen porch is approximately 20 yards from the nearest window at Harbison Gardens Apartments and that she does not feel safe in her home. She expressed her disappointment that the City of Columbia would not come out and meet with the community. Ms. Hawisher thanked Ms. Kellett for doing all that she can. There was a lot of discussion following this comment.

Residents are forming a group to promote support for the Beacon Hill community with our political entities, law enforcement, property owners and other interested parties to decrease crime in the area. If you want to help please send you contact information to ckellett@harbisoncommunity.com.

Mr. West closed the meeting at 8:00 pm.