

The Garden District

Mazyck-Wraggborough Neighborhood Association Notes October 17, 2016

The Neighborhood Meeting of Mazyck-Wraggborough was held Monday night, October 17 at St Stephen's Episcopal Church. First on the agenda was an update from Mayor John Tecklenburg on his priorities. He spoke about the Illumination Project between the police department and the public. It is a series of listening sessions designed to build trust. He stated the time has come to begin to put the ideas generated into action. He will be working on that over the next year. He praised the city staff (and state) for the work done during Matthew. He thanked all citizens for responding to the governor's warnings. Ongoing projects include: 1. improvements to the infrastructure of the city. The state has not been giving us the money to keep up with the growth that Charleston is experiencing. He restated his support for the completion of 526. 2. Drainage. A lot of the city is composed of wetlands which were filled in and this has not worked out well. Now we are paying the price. The harbor sea level is up 18" in the last 100 years and is still rising. The pumps necessary to keep the water out are expensive, and it takes time to get them installed.

He spoke of the need to support the creative arts in Charleston. His attempts to slow hotel growth has not been supported by City Council, so now he will attempt to reduce the overlay zone spot by spot.

Next was a presentation by Dr. Wilmot Fraser discussing his proposal to convert 49 Chapel Street to the Amen Museum Project. His plan calls for two 3-bedroom condos, four 1 and 2 bedroom short term rental properties and the museum. The museum will feature the Low country Gullah culture. His hand out states: "Human origins and equality, slavery, freedom, justice, creativity, ingenuity and technology are among the interrelated themes that will be interpreted in the permanent exhibitions." A hearing is before the BAR on November 1 where he will seek variances. There was some disagreement over how many and what they will be. With 100% agreement the neighborhood voted not to support the Amen Museum Project.

Angela Green made a brief statement which received applause. She has taken the Dewberry to court over there unlawful truck movements and they were fined \$500.