

North Central Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2025

Location: Redux Contemporary Art Center

Presiding: Stephen Rosenberg, President

Attendance: City officials, neighborhood members, community partners

I. Welcome & Opening Remarks

- Stephen Rosenberg opened the meeting, thanked attendees, and recognized Redux for hosting.
 - Ms. Maggie Jordan (Redux Studio Director) gave an overview of upcoming events:
 - **Open Studios:** Thursday, 5–8 PM, free admission.
 - **Annual Art Auction:** November 8–15, including a family-friendly kickoff brunch and culminating gala on November 15.
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II. Legacy Tree Program & Recognition Ceremony

- **Presenter:** Jon Chalfie, Volunteer Tree Coordinator
- **Achievements:**
 - Raised **\$3,000** last winter; planted **14 trees** across **9–10 streets**.
 - This year's campaign has raised **\$1,200 of \$3,000 goal**.
 - City contributes one tree for every two purchased by residents.
- **Recognition:** Donors were acknowledged and presented with city proclamations.

- **Mayor William Cogswell** commended the program as “a breath of fresh air,” highlighting its role in building community pride and environmental resilience.
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III. Mayoral Address & Q&A

Speaker: Mayor Cogswell

Key Updates:

- **Low Line Project:**
 - Phase 1 completion expected late spring/summer 2026.
 - Phase 2 will include neighborhood access points.
 - Three parking lots incorporated to reduce street congestion.
- **Courier Square:** Public access confirmed by PUD requirements.
- **Pedestrian Safety:**
 - Crosswalk improvements at Moultrie, Rutledge, and near the School of Math & Science underway with SCDOT.
- **Drug Houses & Condemnation Initiative:**
 - City pursuing condemnation of chronic nuisance properties to redevelop into **affordable housing (~80% AMI)** via partnerships with preservation groups.
- **New Market Creek Wetland Grant:**
 - Federal grant pending; expected decision by end of year for nature-based stormwater solutions.
- **BAR Reform:**
 - Community-proposed modifications moving through council; first reading expected within 30 days.
- **Infrastructure & Flooding:**

- City prioritizing flood mitigation partnerships with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
 - Urged residents to support the **2026 Transportation Sales Tax** initiative.
 - **Safety & Bond Reform:**
 - Addressed concerns over repeat offenders; bond reform must occur at the state level.
 - **Affordable Housing:**
 - Clarified distinction between low-income and workforce housing; city targeting 50–120% AMI for new developments.
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IV. Treasurer's Report

- **Presented by:** Karthyn Durst-Glenn
 - **Beginning Balance:** \$2,463.66
 - **Expenses:**
 - \$103.55 – Annual guide flyers
 - \$50 – Donation to Marsh Project
 - \$50 – Donation to Friends of James Simmons
 - **Current Balance:** \$2,260.11
 - **Tree Legacy Fund:** \$884.42 (1 new tree sold)
 - **Active Members:** 71 (largest to date)
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V. Approval of Previous Minutes

- **Secretary:** Candace Moore
 - Previous meeting minutes reviewed and approved unanimously.
 - Highlights included:
 - Police updates on safety and juvenile justice.
 - Infrastructure, flooding, and hurricane preparedness discussions.
 - Preservation Society's neighborhood character appraisal.
 - Union Pier redevelopment presentation.
 - Launch of Neighborhood Captain program.
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VI. Reports & Guest Speakers

A. Police Department Update – Lt. Murray

- Recent flooding: Barricades deployed within 30 minutes during last storm.
- Graffiti suspect apprehended; released on bond.
- Ongoing issues:
 - Bicycle indecent exposure suspect under investigation.
 - Coordination with livability and HOPE Center for homeless outreach.

B. Councilman Robert Mitchell

- **Affordable Housing Projects:**
 - Construction starting next month near 676 King St. (mixed-income).
 - Clarified difference between affordable (50–150% AMI) and low-income housing.
- **Animal Control:**

- Follow-up on resident complaints regarding feeding wildlife (cats/raccoons).
- **Food Access:**
 - Working to attract new grocery options following CVS and potential Food Lion closures.

C. Community Presentations

1. Friends of James Simmons Montessori – Bethany Nemitz

- Annual pledge drive launched with \$50K goal.
- Supports field trips, classroom needs, and student assistance.
- NCNA presented a \$50 donation to the school.

2. Jerusalem Baptist Church – Ms. Flora Owens & Rev. Dr. Herbert Beard

- Historic church (est. 1823) facing severe roof and water damage.
- Seeking restoration funding and volunteers for monthly food/clothing drives.
- Partnering with Citadel & College of Charleston preservation programs.
- Food giveaway: **Every 3rd Friday (8:30 AM setup) & Saturday distribution.**

3. Charleston Habitat for Humanity – Cara Subasic & Kristen Williams

- Celebrated **100th home** milestone.
 - Announced merger with East Cooper Habitat.
 - Upcoming **Rutledge Ave. triplex project (3 affordable units)** pending permits.
 - **Women Build Month:** October; **Oyster Roast Fundraiser:** November 2 (Citadel Beach Club).
 - Volunteers welcome for home builds and Restore operations.
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VII. Closing Remarks & Upcoming Events

- **Neighborhood President Stephen Rosenberg:**
 - Thanked attendees and speakers.
 - Highlighted recent **Neighborhood Night Out at Santi's**; suggested quarterly social gatherings.
 - **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Oct 28:** District 4 City Council Candidate Forum (Redux).
 - **Nov Meeting:** State Senator Forum (Ed Sutton confirmed; Tedder invited).
 - Future sessions planned with Charleston Water and on hospitality issues.
- **Resident Announcement:**
 - Coming Street resident shared ongoing **October 7 court case vs. City of Charleston** regarding a Martin Park conference center, inviting community support.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned following final remarks and announcements.
