

The Garden District Mazyck-Wraggborough Neighborhood Association April 2010 Meeting

The Mazyck-Wraggborough Neighborhood Association met on April 19, 2010 at the Rising High Bakery. The principal speaker of the evening was Jim Newsome, President, of the South Carolina State Ports Authority. His topic was the Cruise Ship Redevelopment Plans for Union Pier Port Terminal and its Impact on the City and our Neighborhood. Mr. Newsome told the attendees that in 2010 there will be 67 cruise ship port days, (days that ships will be in Charleston) 104 in 2011 and 104 in 2012. The ship lines are the Celebrity and the Carnival, and the ships should carry 2,500 to 3,000 people each.

“My customers are Celebrity and Carnival,” Mr. Newsome stated. He said there is no evidence that either has acted irresponsibly with regard to environmental concerns. He said he believes that the cruise industry is an “environmentally good industry.” He also said that the SPA was chartered in 1942 to run the ports as a for profit enterprise owned by the state. “We do not regulate ships that come into the harbor; federal law preempts local.”

The carbon imprint on the Union Pier area should be reduced when the BMW roll on and roll off is moved to Columbus Street. This will be done in conjunction with the new cruise terminal.

Also discussed was an upcoming meeting between Vangie and Mayor Riley. It is to discuss any issues the neighborhood would like to bring to his attention. Suggestions included: Increased street cleaning; additional trash containers with lids; remove excess utility poles; the No Turn on Red stop light at Elizabeth and Calhoun; a traffic study on parking on East Bay; enforcing residential parking; maintenance standards on rental property.