**ACoN Minutes**  
Jan. 24, 2017  
6:30 p.m., Municipal Bldg., First floor conference room  
  
Present:   
Gary Yount, President John Lindsay Charles Barranco Phil Lockard   
Ann Dicks, Vice President Roger Brock Tim Coakley   
Beth Copenhaver, Secretary Bill Busser Marya Moultrie   
Diane Saunders, Treasurer James Matthews Tim Coakley  
Michele O’Shaughnessy Donna Fanning Tim O’Briant  
   
President Gary Yount opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce himself/herself.

President Yount welcomed our special guests from the City of Aiken (Chief Barranco, Tim Coakley, Marya Moultrie, and Tim O’Briant) and asked if they had information to share. Chief Barranco distributed handouts regarding the Friday, Jan. 27, 2017, PACE conference; he also offered signs for each neighborhood that remind people to lock their cars, stop littering, etc. Tim Coakley talked briefly about the reason for the every-other-week recycling schedule and talked about what items to recycle. Marya Moultrie offered any assistance that she could be to ACoN in her capacity in the Planning Department (including a list of neighborhoods in the City of Aiken). Tim O’Briant was welcomed back to Aiken in his new position as Communications Director of the City of Aiken.

The minutes from the November 29, 2016, meeting were distributed and approved as written.

President Yount asked Bill Busser to introduce our guest speaker, Dr. Elaine Clanton Harpine. Dr. Harpine gave an overview of the Camp Sharigan Project held at St. John’s Church. Since Dr. Harpine is retiring in May as an adjunct professor from USCA, she asked ACoN’s assistance in securing funding for this free reading tutorial program (including grant possibilities); she also needs volunteers to help tutor (tutors need no prior experience; Dr. Harpine will train them herself). Her contact number is 803-593-4988.

President Yount asked Diane Saunders to report on the 501(c)(3) application. Diane said that the application was approved and that ACoN is now officially a non-profit organization. Mrs. Saunders was thanked for her work on this ACoN goal. Our March meeting will explore how we will utilize this non-profit status.

President Yount gave Diane Saunders the floor; Diane explained why she felt that a Sergeant-at-Arms position should be added to the list of officers. Mrs. Dicks made a motion that ACoN add a Sergeant-at-Arms position. Mrs. Saunders gave handouts as to the responsibilities of this position. After discussion, the motion passed 5-4. It was agreed that the position itself, however, would be renamed at the March meeting.

President Yount said that, in order to accomplish our primary goals for 2017, he was proposing the following committees: landlord/rental/codes & ordinances, crime/neighborhood watch, membership of active ACoN neighborhoods, grants, networking/communications. Beth Copenhaver said that Roger Brock and Michele O’Shaughnessy had kindly agreed to chair the membership and grants committees. Gary asked for other members to please consider chairing or serving on one of these committees. President Yount said that, in order to accomplish our goals, each committee would meet in between our regular meetings and then report on their progress at the bi-monthly meetings.

As part of the Roundtable discussion, President Yount asked each neighborhood representative to state what he felt his neighborhood *needed/wanted* from the Aiken Council of Neighborhoods (ACoN). These topics were mentioned: communication, horsepower that comes from being unified, unified approach (not Northside versus Southside), getting projects done through use of the 501(c)(3) designation, cohesive organization for all neighborhoods, networking/voices being heard as one, analyze problems and present solutions together to the city, coming together to speak for all neighborhoods, sounding board to speak to the city and for the city to come to ACoN to receive input before decisions, creating solutions to better the city as a whole.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. **The second meeting of 2017 will be Tuesday, March 28, 2017.**