

Tourism Advisory Committee

June 28, 2016

Agenda

- Chair's Report
- Update:
 - Revisions to horse-drawn carriage ordinance
 - Revisions to the quadricycle ordinance
- Address concerns from Calhoun Ward
- Discuss current restrictions for residential areas of the Historic District
- Additional business



**Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC)
Meeting Summary
June 28, 2016**

TAC Attendees: Charlie Brazil, Jamie Caskey, Mark Dana, Vaughnette Goode-Walker, Austin Hill Bill Lovett, Joe Marinelli, Eric Meyerhoff, DeAnne Mitchell, Michael Owens, Adam Wilkins

TAC Absence: Sandra Baxter, David Jones

Guests: Mickey Minick, Rusty Brown, Daniel Carey, Marcia Baines, Eric Curl, Bob Hunt, Dee Thompson

City Staff: Bridget Lidy, Marija Bumgarner, Cynthia Pelote, Officer Meghan Whitfield, Officer Janessa Stalter, Officer Josh Holtz, Officer Cramer

Chair's Report

Chair Goode-Walker opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She explained the meeting was informational to bring the TAC up-to-date on the revision processes for the horse drawn carriage and the quadricycle ordinances.

Last month, staff met with representatives from the quadricycle companies. The heat policy was revised last year based on a recommendation from the TAC. It has not been a full year with the policy in place. She also reminded the TAC revisions are part of process and how government works. Last year, the City changed the Tour Service for Hire Ordinance based on the lawsuit as well as participating in an election cycle. TAC members should be a part of the process by attending TAC meetings.

Ordinance Revisions: Horse Drawn Carriage Ordinance

The presentation on the revisions to the horse drawn carriage ordinance was reviewed. Please refer to the attached slide presentation. Joe Marinelli was impressed with the detail and explanation of the data. He was also appreciative of the cooperation of the horse drawn carriage companies. Charlie Brazil asked how to get this information to the public and Council so they understand everyone is working toward a common goal of protecting the animals. It is important to see the scientific perspective; this helps reduce the emotional aspect of the discussion.



Charlie suggested getting the data out early in the season to educate and desensitize the issue.

Bill Lovett asked about www.weather.gov. Staff explained this is a government website providing updated information on the weather conditions in Savannah. Jamie Caskey stated other communities have different weather conditions than Savannah—our climate is different. Weather in New Orleans is humid and is different than Savannah. This needs to be taken into account when reviewing this information.

Eric Meyerhoff asked how the companies are notified about the heat thresholds being met. Staff explained notification is emailed to the companies in the morning when the forecast states we will meet the heat standards. A follow-up email is sent once the thresholds have been met. Staff has started posting this information on Facebook.

Ordinance Revisions: Quadricycle Ordinance

A brief presentation on the revisions to the quadricycle ordinance was reviewed. Please refer to the attached slide presentation. Mark Dana asked how a quadricycle was categorized and what the difference between a bike and a car. Staff explained that the quadricycle is defined the ordinance, they are neither a bicycle nor a vehicle. The City's ordinance does provide a definition of the vehicle type.

Mr. Owens asked what the issue was with consumption of alcohol on the vehicle. He was concerned the quadricycle business model is based on permitting alcohol on the vehicle; eliminating alcohol on the vehicle could take them out of business. Mr. Caskey wanted to clarify that consumption of alcohol would only be prohibited on the quadricycle. Staff stated patrons of the tour would be able to drink at the establishments visited. Chair Goode-Walker reminded everyone that more discussions will occur with the two companies with staff as well as with the TAC. The companies have been very cooperative.

Mr. Marinelli asked who the stakeholders were. It was explained that two companies are involved with the revisions discussion—Eco Pedals and Savannah Slowride. Mr. Caskey stated the pub crawls move people and have more flexibility on their route. The quadricycles do not have the same flexibility, they are locked into a route.

Mr. Brazil stated there are issues with the residential quality of life and noise. He stated trolley companies looked at the Tour Service For Hire Ordinance and noise



issues. Issues centered on residential versus commercial/mixed-use areas, ambient noise and the movement of the vehicles making it very difficult to establish a standard. He added the level of noise should be looked at opposed to an individual. He added we want compliance versus enforcement—but we do need some threshold to protect the residential quality of life. We have to be careful not to overreach or set up standards which don't work—it must be scientific. Mr. Dana stated the measurement becomes subjective.

Mr. Lovett recommended removing quadricycles from the residential areas all together. Mr. Marinelli asked Mr. Hunt if they go through the residential area. Mr. Hunt stated the quadricycles go through residential areas for special tours, and they keep the noise levels down. He added Savannah Slowride shows a 1.5 minute video to all patrons prior to starting the tour.

Chair Goode-Walker reminded the TAC that the ordinance revisions at this time are informational only.

Touring in Residential Areas

Staff reviewed information on complaints from Calhoun Ward. Please refer to the attached presentation. Mr. Lovett attended a meeting with concerned residents and the Hearse Tour to discuss an issue with a horn honking. Residents thought it was in retaliation to posting on Nextdoor.com. During the meeting, it was clarified the honking horn was a malfunctioning device on the vehicle. Mr. Lovett continued by saying there is a tour guide who is loud and using an iPad to light up properties he talks about on his tour. He added that the guides want to do a good job, they need to provide a good show to get a tip. Mr. Brazil commented guides should be held responsible; a citation should negate any benefit of a tip.

Mr. Lovett also brought up the request to provide protections to Warren Square. Staff explained that a portion of Warren Square is already included in the ordinance under restricted area definition. Staff will monitor the area to see if touring after hours is a problem in this area. They were not aware of any complaints.

Next Meeting

The meeting dates were reviewed for the next few months. They are:

- July 19
- September 20

All meeting are at 8:30AM in the 2nd floor Media Room of City Hall.

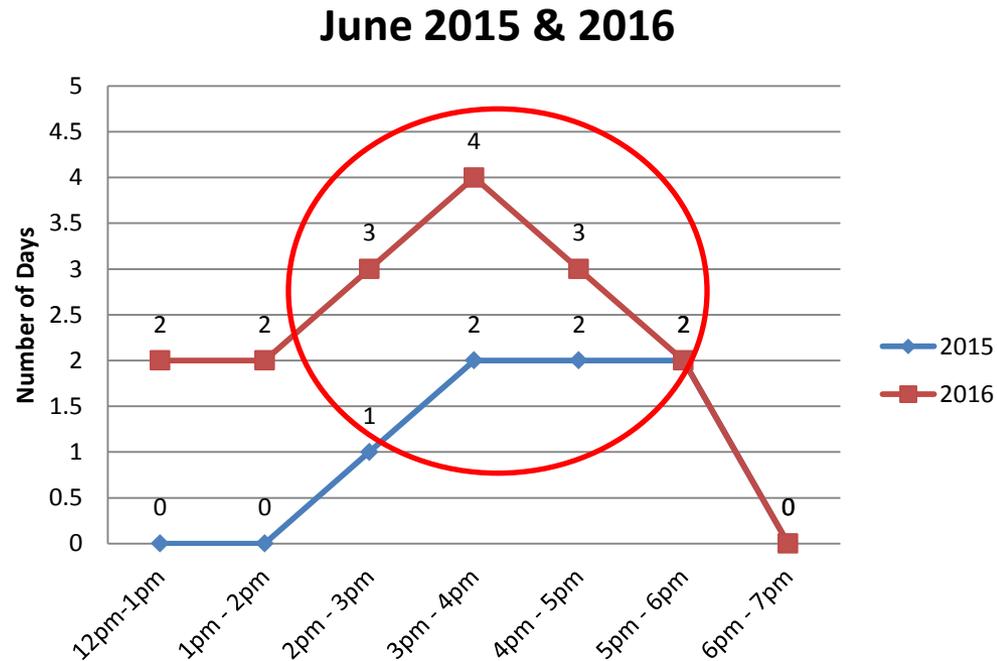
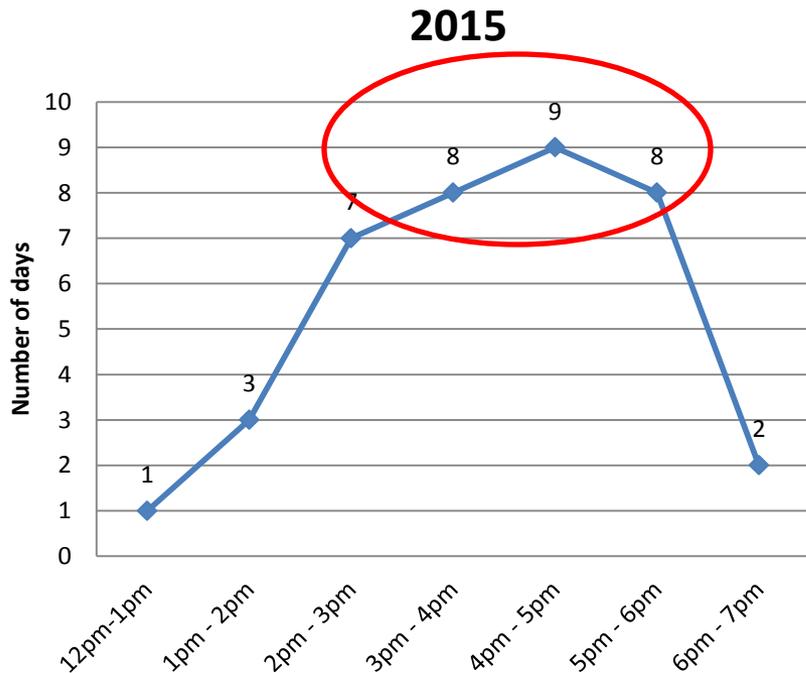
Current Heat Policy

- Revised in July 2015
- Two companies cited in 2015
- Changes included:
 - Heat Index of 110 degrees or higher OR 98 degrees or higher
 - Horses will not be allowed to operate on city streets
 - Horses currently on the street have the option of staying at their stand to keep cool. This prevents the horse from potentially being put into a dangerous situation being sent back to the stables which may be a mile or more away.
- Sgt. Gene Lawhorn, SCMPD Mounted Police Patrol, and the veterinarian treating the City's horses were consulted during this process and agreed to the changes
- May 2016, City Assistance Providers participated in equine training for law enforcement and animal control officers sponsored by the GA Equine Rescue League and GA Dept of Agriculture.

CITY	TEMPERATURE	HEAT INDEX
Savannah(Old Policy)	99	120
Savannah(New Policy)	98	110
Austin	96	-
Beaufort	91	-
Charleston	98	125
Chicago	90	-
New Orleans	95	-
New York City	90	85
Philadelphia	92	-
San Antonio	96	-
St. Augustine	95	105
St. Louis	-	100

Heat Data

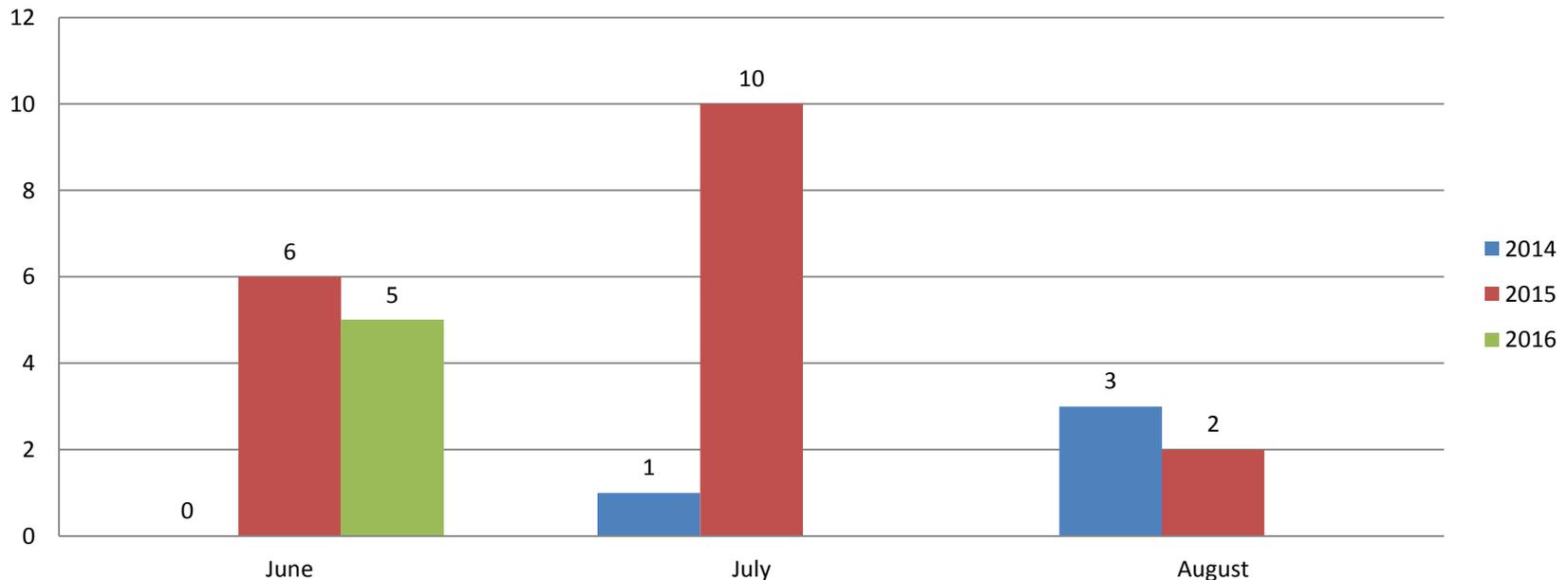
Hours of the Day Horses were unable to operate due reaching a Temperature of 98 degrees or higher OR Heat Index of 110 or higher



- In 2015, the heat thresholds were most frequently reached from 2:00pm – 6:00pm. This is consistent with June of 2015 & 2016
- The Carriage companies do not operate between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on holidays

Heat Data cont.

Number of days Horse and Carriage Companies were impacted by the heat policy



2014 - Reached temperature of 98 degrees or higher 4 times (99 degrees/120 heat index)

2015 - Reached temperature of 98 degrees or higher 3 times, Heat index 110 or higher 14 times and both the heat index and temperature 1 time

2016 - Reached heat index of 110 or higher 5 times

Horse-Drawn Carriage Ordinance

Proposed Revisions:

- Changes to reflect Tour Service for Hire Ordinance
- Full review to ensure we are protecting the well-being of the tour guides and horses
 - Inspection and commercial decal for carriage
 - Certificate of serviceability for horses
 - Required training program for tour guides and horses
 - Additional safety and equipment requirements
 - Horse care requirements
 - Incidents and accidents (Charleston Report)

Outreach:

- Carriage Companies
- Sgt. Lawhorn, Mounted SCMPD Patrol
- Veterinarian treating the City's animals
- Animal advocacy group

Quadricycle ordinance

Operations:

- No standing while quadricycle is in motion
- Consumption of alcohol prohibited while occupying/ operating a quadricycle
- All private/chartered tours shall be approved by the City 24-hours prior to the tour
- Allow to cross Bay Street at Montgomery and Jefferson streets—except between 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Conduct:

- Companies will continue training program on City regulations
- Language to curtail singing, yelling and shouting
- No amplification devices

Proposed Timeline

TASK	HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE & QUADRICYLCE ORDINANCE
Meet with stakeholders	June-July
Present draft ordinance to TAC	July
Present to final ordinance to TAC	August
Present to City Council	September-October

Touring in Residential Areas

- In Aug-Sept 2015, TAC discussed issues occurring in Calhoun Ward and Lincoln/President
- Previous ordinance permitted “hotspots” limiting tours in specific areas/times based on City Manager approval

Revisions supported by TAC

- October 2015, ordinance revisions included:

6-1502. Definitions.

(l)Restricted areas. Sections of the city designated by ordinance in which all tour guides and tour service companies shall not operate at certain times or under certain conditions. Restricted areas include:

- 1) The 400 and 500 blocks of East St. Julian Street and Washington Square from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. (November 1st through February 28th) and 9:30 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. (March 1st through October 31st); and*
- 2) South of Liberty Street and east of the western-most curb line of Lincoln Street from 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. year-round.*

Concerns

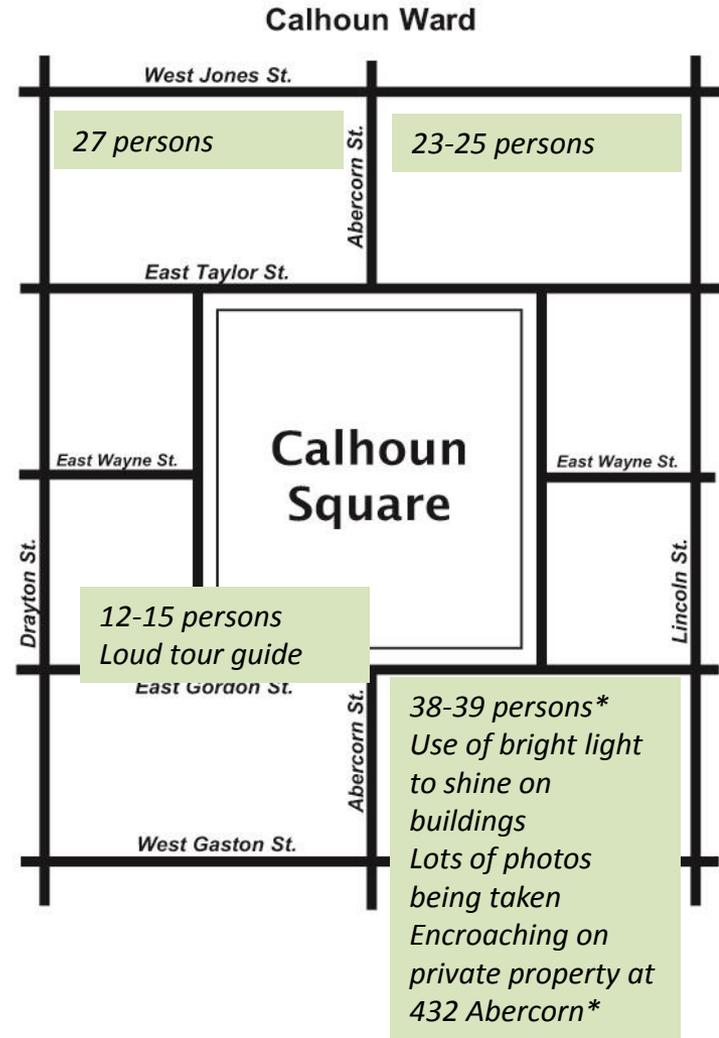
- Calhoun Ward
- Walking Tours:
 - Noise levels
 - After-hours touring
 - More than 30 persons
 - Cameras flashing
 - Spotlight used
 - Encroaching on private property
- Hearse Tours:
 - Horn honking

Enforcement efforts

Thursday, June 23

- Calhoun Ward
- 10:58pm-11:25pm
- Total of 90 to 96 persons observed
- Violations occurring south of Liberty Street after 12midnight:
 - Tour in Madison Square, student on moped stated he was scared with the bright flash light being used. He did not know what was going on and wanted to make sure everything was alright.
 - Tour north of Liberty Street at 11:45PM with 26 people *
 - Tour in Lafayette Square at 12:30AM; CAP did not know the tour guide and interrupted the tour at 12:39AM. *

* *Citation issued*



Action Plan

- Tour companies warned of tour ordinance violations
- Increased enforcement coverage
- Continue to engage Tourism Oriented Policing (TOP) unit

- TAC meetings:
 - 3rd Tuesday of the month
 - 8:30AM
 - 2nd floor Media Room
- Upcoming Dates:
 - July 19
 - August 16
 - September 20