

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2013

President Carl Schrader called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Members present, per sign-in sheets, are on file.

Speakers

Greg Brown, Parks Superintendent, City of Largo gave us the history of Central Park. Through referendum, the City decided to tax itself for the maintenance of the park. Approx 800,000 people use the park each year. The first children's playground in the park was built using community volunteers. They use sponsorship for funding as well. 300-400 trees are planted thru sponsorship (\$300 - \$2000 each). No alcohol at events. Park is fully irrigated with 8 shelters, 1 bathroom facility with 3 urinals and 6 stalls.

Doors are self-closing with magnetic locks. They have 8 staff, 7 days a week for the park, library and nature preserve. There is also 1 closer. Eagle Scout projects support the park. Movies, clown day, 2 groups have adopted park who do 2 projects (Clean-up) and can hold one party. The children's park bumped up attendance by 500 – 800 people. There are a lot more birthday parties. Bathrooms are directly adjacent to children's playground. Events in the park are: 4th of July, Spooktacular, Holiday Stroll (Christmas), Movies.

Largo has nine (9) restrooms in other parks .A single ½ headcount (.5 persons) maintain 7 restrooms in various parks). City co-sponsors events at half price. Whole park system has 34 FTE's. Central Park budget is \$600K. There are 38 picnic tables in Central Park. People can be trespassed out of the park for 1 yr or forever depending on the frequency and violation.

Mr. Brown said they operate on the “hedonic principal”, the closer properties are to the park the more the property values are increased. (3 – 5 % for a radius of 2000 ft used in Largo) which increases property taxes.

CNC members complimented Mr. Brown on the park and the lighting.

Tracy Squitieri Clearwater Police Department Communications Center - She will be visiting neighborhood meetings in the next month. When “911” is called it goes to Pinellas County 911 Center which is not part of the Clearwater Police. The call is then switched to the CPD if it is not medical or fire related. You will be asked the same questions that you gave to the 911 operator. You can also call the CPD non-emergency response line.

If your 911 call is not an emergency, you will be asked to call back on the non-emergency line. That is due to the limited number of 911 lines. There are 3 call queues: emergency, non-emergency and admin. If a 911 call is not answered, it becomes audible in the whole center so it will be answered ASAP. There are 8 dedicated positions to take calls. She asked that callers do the following:

- When making a call, the more detail you can give the better.
- If you are armed or have access to weapons let dispatcher know
- Is there a pool, fence, is area locked, if so notify dispatcher and tell them where the key is.
- Vehicles – get familiar with car models, type of tag, direction of travel
- If you call the communications center and want to see an officer, they will send one, you must ask.
- If you get an answer that you don't like from the dispatcher, ask to speak to a supervisor. There is always one on duty.

Secretary Report: Shelley Kuroghlian presented the February 4th minutes to the membership. A motion to accept as written was made by Ron Delp, 2nd by Doug Williams. Passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Doug Williams presented the Treasurers Report. A motion by Howard Warshauer to accept as written, 2nd by Dave Albritton. Passed unanimously.

Old Business

Crest Lake Park Resolution: A resolution, passed unanimously by the membership in January, was presented to the Clearwater City Council and read by President, Carl Schrader on February 21st, in Citizens to be heard. Thirty –five people in the audience stood to show support for the resolution. Norma Carlough asked when the Crest Lake bathrooms will be on the agenda. Per Bill Jonson, it will be on the workshop agenda of March 18th or the council meeting of March 21st.

There has been a petition with 166 names and a resolution presented to the City Council. J. Siskin asked when we will be told when the restrooms will be opened. Motion made by Ron Delp to contact Mayor Cretekos to find out exactly when the opening of the bathrooms will be discussed. 2nd by JoAnna Siskin. Passed unanimously.

The next event at Crest Lake Park will be March 23rd for a drum circle and spoken word.

The memorial for Jason Paul was held on February 23rd in Crest Lake Park. Representatives of the Community, Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition, City of Clearwater, Clearwater Police Department and Pinellas County Sherriff's Office were in attendance. Pastor Jerry, from St. Paul's Lutheran Church officiated and a bagpipe player from Dunedin HS, Jason's alma mater, played "Amazing Grace". Jason's parents thanked the community for their support.

New Business

Visioning Session Invitation: Carl asked for a date that members could attend the visioning session. Proposed dates are March 12, 13, 19, 20. The City will show us what money they have allocated for future projects to see if the community is in favor or not. Carl proposed that we meet on Wednesday, March 20th. Group agreed. Eric Wilson will get back to us with the time of the meeting.

Neighborhood Trash Barrel Painting: A suggestion was made by Julie Thompson to see if neighborhoods could work with the City and Solid Waste to paint the trash barrels. This type of activity was proposed for putting fun back in Clearwater. The Director of Solid Waste was very receptive and they are looking at code changes to allow this by permit.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium: Carl asked if we want to put this on the CNC agenda. It was suggested that we step back until we can understand what the realities of the project are.

Madeira Beach Nuisance Ordinances: Carl will ask the Mayor of Madeira Beach to attend the next meeting.

Clearwater Police Accreditation: Officer DeWitt noted that the department will be going through the accreditation process. They will be asking for comments and feedback.

Adjournment: Motion by Doug Williams to adjourn. 2nd by Ron Delp. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Kuroghlian
Secretary, Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition