

**Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 7, 2013**

President, Carl Schrader called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members present, per sign-in sheet on file.

**Business Guest**

Quy Nguyen, President, Pure Beauty Salon Inc. spoke to the membership about this Clearwater business that opened in 2013. The shop is adjacent to Einstein's Bagels at 1906 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd, corner of Arcturas Ave.

**Guest Speakers**

Anna Gurney is the new Public Information Coordinator and Neighborhood Liaison. She will be updating the City's neighborhood contact list and asks that you respond to the request for information. Her contact number is 562-4554 and email address is [anna.gurney@myclearwater.com](mailto:anna.gurney@myclearwater.com)

Honorable Paul Gibson, Council Member spoke to the membership about the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The Aquarium will not raise taxes on residents but there will be taxes and fees on tourists (hotel, business, etc.) No increase in property tax associated with the aquarium is written into the agreement. He spoke to the mailers sent by the "No" supporters and some statements that he does not feel is true. If the Aquarium fails the lenders cannot use the property for anything other than an aquarium. They would be responsible, not the taxpayers. This will help to increase our tax base by spurring development. He said the net present value is approximately \$12 million on the city appraised \$6 million property.

Flood insurance rates are being changed by the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012 o PAC that wants to generate more revenue. This will have a dramatic negative impact on assessed home value. Insurance rates will rise dramatically on beach properties. There is a 25% cap on primary residences but not on second homes. The changes will take place on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Homeowners need to check the National Flood Insurance website to determine how their properties may be impacted.

Honorable Jay Polglaze, Council Member addressed the membership regarding the use of laws similar to those in Madiera Beach to deal with chronic nuisance properties. Diane Nelson tax collector indicates that they have not yet had to enforce any of the ordinances in Madiera Beach. He feels that Clearwater needs to beef up our ordinances to deal with these issues. The City Attorney is doing more research on this topic as she does not feel it is enforceable.

He spoke about his focus on neighborhoods and his dismay about not restoring neighborhood grants in this year's budget. He spoke about maintaining the integrity of our parks and make them a neighborhood destination. He was a supporter of keeping the restrooms open in Crest Lake Park. He wants the park upgraded but not to \$7 million. He feels that it can be done for a lot less money. The balance of the money could be diverted back to neighborhoods.

State of the City is to make destination hubs on major arterials similar to that at Countryside Mall area. HCA has purchased property behind Publix on Gulf to bay to build an urgent care center. Our economic opportunity is unprecedented; there has been investment in the Capital Theater and other investors who have committed to the downtown, if the CMA is built. There is discussion to have residential over retail in the AmSouth project.

Pat Harney, Public Affairs Director FLAG, Church of Scientology provided some background on the Church. It has been in Clearwater for 40 years with 10,000 church members that live in the area, 2400 of which work for the church. They come from diverse backgrounds and work in different occupations. They give 200,000 volunteer hours in the area. The Fort Harrison Hotel, the Clearwater Bank and the Sand Castle properties were renovated and upgraded by the Church. They pay approximately \$1 million in property and \$1.1 million in bed taxes. She indicated that it had a \$140 million economic impact on the community. The Super Power building will be opening shortly and is thought of by its members as Catholics do the Vatican.

### **Secretary's Report**

Shelley Kuroghlian presented the minutes from the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and asked if there were any additions or corrections. None indicated. Motion by Doug Williams to accept the minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jack Mortimer. Passed unanimously.

### **Treasurers Report**

Doug Williams presented the Treasurers report as of September 30, 2013. Motion by Howard Warshauer to accept the report as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julie Thompson. Passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

Logo T-shirts for the CNC can be ordered via the on-line order form. Please log into the CNC website. Give your \$10 to Doug Williams.

January 2014 Council Candidate Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14th, using the old format.

### **New Business**

The CNC will hold their meetings on the first Tuesday of the Month beginning in 2014. The January meeting is a candidate forum and it will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

Slate of Officers for 2014 members need to suggest candidates.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Doug Williams and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lee Mortimer. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Kuroghlian  
Secretary, Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition