

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2013

President Carl Schrader called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Members present, per sign-in sheets, are on file.

Speakers

Honorable William Jonson, Council Member, City of Clearwater, commended the leadership of the CNC for advocating on behalf of neighborhoods within the city. He spoke about the need to attract, not only retirees, but young families with children. He explained the need to balance funding for all parts of the community.

He provided an update on the Budget Inn and Motel 21 based on complaints from the August meeting. He had a discussion with code enforcement who acknowledged multiple code violations. The code issues at Budget Inn have been cleared on Friday, Sept 7th with the exception of 8 still outstanding. Mr. Teunis emphasized to Mr. Jonson that he has taken a personal interest in this issue.

There is also a drive to work on a strategic direction and make plans to prioritize and complete projects. The East West Trail will be completed in 2017.

A question was asked about nuisance properties and the work that Dunedin is currently doing to take action. Clearwater has consulted with their attorneys and the possible use of tax levies to correct the violations.

Mr. Jonson is President of the [Suncoast League of Cities](#). Each city has one director and an alternate. The SLC meets 5 times a year and discusses issues (such as economic development, pensions & flood insurance). The SLC prefers that these items be addressed at the local rather than state level.

There is no information that our City Hall is falling down but deferred maintenance needs to be performed and also a better energy system needs to be installed. He is not aware of any study done by anyone that showed that the building needs to be replaced. He does not feel that the Clearwater Marine Aquarium was placed on the ballot due to a need to replace the building due to structural deficiency.

A question was raised about the number of voters (68K) and “supervoters” (7K) which are those that routinely participate in city elections.

Clearwater Police Officer Selina Hyppolite, the new Liaison Officer that will be attending the CNC meetings, was introduced by Councilman Jonson. She provided an update on a number of neighborhood issues. [National Night Out](#) will take place at Clearwater Mall on October 1st, from 5 to 9 PM. The Clearwater Police and Fire Departments as well as many other public safety and nonprofit organizations will be at this event. You can have old documents shredded for free during this event too. Officer Hyppolite also provided an update on the Jason Paul murder case. A number of members thanked the police for their support.

Honorable Doreen Hock-DiPolito, Council Member, City of Clearwater, addressed the ballot language for the Clearwater Marine Aquarium referendum.

She provided her background history as a Clearwater and Pinellas County resident from Elementary school and beyond high school. She would like the bathrooms back at Crest Lake Park but in the “right” location. She said that she has gained a better understanding of how hard the city departments work to make Clearwater a better place to live, work and play.

She supports the CMA referendum. When asked about looking at the library for a City Hall replacement, she talked about the former St. Petersburg Times building that is going to be a transportation center and the fact that the City hall could fit in the current Municipal Services Building or possibly at the transportation site.

She asked that members send emails if they have any questions about transportation.

She referred to Connect Tampabay and the push by many young professionals to improve transportation in the area.

The address for the online survey for parks: Myclearwater.com, click on parks and recreation, click on master plan update, click on take this survey

A question was raised about historic preservation in Clearwater. City Hall is not an historic building but the county courthouse is and should be preserved. She also supports preserving buildings in the region such as the Safety Harbor Spa and the Belleview Biltmore Hotel.

The East Gateway Farmers Market has been asked to move by the Cleveland Plaza under threat of a lawsuit. A question was asked about the council's position on this and to have funding restored. Ms. Hock-Dipolito supports continuation of the farmers market.

Felicia Leonard, Administrative Manager, Parks and Recreation, City of Clearwater provided information on a grant for four (4) new tennis courts at the McMullen Tennis Center. This project scored #1 in the state when originally applied for in 2008 but due to the economy, funding was not forthcoming. They have now reapplied for a \$200K grant which will be matched by the City of Clearwater. She also spoke about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This is an update of the 2002 plan. She encouraged all to take the survey to identify priorities and use the [myclearwaterinput](http://myclearwaterinput.com) website.

Secretary Report: Carl Schrader presented the August 5th minutes to the membership. A motion to accept as written was made by Doug Williams, 2nd by Dave Allbritton. . Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Doug Williams presented the Treasurers Report. A motion by Howard Warshauer was made to accept as written, 2nd by Ron Delp. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition logo shirts order form will be placed online and the cost will be 50% paid by the member & 50% by the Coalition. The color of the shirt is the teal green.

New Business

Agendas are booked through the end of the year. Carl reviewed the speakers with the members. Slate of officers needs to be chosen in the November meeting. Question on whether to hold a Voters Forum in January was postponed until the October meeting.

Sandra Lyth asked for input with regard to support for the East Gateway Farmers Market. It was felt that the market needs to continue as it is part of the 5 year vision for the community. The EGBNA will work on this and report back to the CNC.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Doug Williams and 2nd by Ron Delp to adjourn. Motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Kuroghlian
Secretary,
Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition