

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition Meeting Minutes • Monday, April 4, 2016

1-2. Meeting called to order at 7:01pm. Pres. Warshauer welcomed attendees and attendees introduced themselves.

3. Guest Speaker: Jeff Baker, Duke Energy. Mr. Baker detailed Duke Energy's history. Florida Power began serving Pinellas in 1899. It later became Progress Energy and was then acquired by Duke Energy. Duke Energy serves 35 counties in Florida, with Pinellas being the largest. The company gives back to the community by funding STEM academies at disadvantaged schools. The company has only 4 coal plants remaining in the state and natural gas will be its primary source of energy in the near future with solar gaining ground in the years to come.

Councilmember Bill Jonson presented a proposal to add landscaping along the US19 corridor at certain locations. FDOT would provide up to \$300,000 worth of landscaping with the city paying approximately \$25,000 per year (\$5K per location) to maintain. Locations under consideration include US19 at: SR 580, Countryside Blvd, Sunset Point, 590 and a small area near Harn Boulevard. Jack Mortimer presented a motion requesting CNC write a letter to city council supporting the measure. Shelly Kuroghlian seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Officers' Reports

Secretary Spencer Cook read minutes of March meeting. Motion to approve by Shelly Kuroghlian and seconded by Jack Mortimer. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer Doug Williams presented Treasurer's Report and reminded members to pay their dues. Motion to approve made by Shelly Kuroghlian and seconded by Lee Mortimer. Motion approved unanimously.

Vice-President Karen Cunningham presented a membership update. Members on the list are being contacted to provide updated information and she also urged folks to attend the May meeting, stressing that meetings are open to everyone, not just association leaders.

President Warshauer announced that polo shirts are on sale for \$20. Contact Doug Williams to purchase shirts. Also announced that officers recommended skipping the July meeting. Motion to skip the July meeting made by Doug Williams and seconded by Linda Kubilius. Approved unanimously. ULI Update: City will hopefully choose a bluff consultant in mid-April.

5. Old Business: CNC received nearly 350 responses to the "Rate Your Neighborhood" web survey. The top five issues (in order) that respondents identified as needing improvement in their neighborhoods are: traffic issues, street

curbs/pavements/markings, sidewalk conditions, cultural assets and access to public transportation. Top positives are: walkability, housing conditions, lawns, safety, public landscaping and shopping access.

The top three neighborhoods responding to the survey were Del Oro Groves, Harbor Oaks and Downtown. President Warshauer stressed that the survey is non-scientific and many neighborhoods including disadvantaged areas were not well-represented. A more in-depth analysis of the data is ongoing. Survey results will drive the list of topics for the guest speakers at the May meeting.

The Rate Your Neighborhood Workshop is set for the May meeting. City of St. Petersburg's Neighborhood Services Department will provide guest speakers with a Q&A session to follow. General discussion about attendance and meeting format followed. President Warshauer, Spencer Cook, Shelly Kuroghlian and Joanna Siskin agreed to serve on event organizing committee and will meet mid-April to finalize details. Shelly Kuroghlian made a motion for CNC to provide \$100 for refreshments and other meeting expenses. Jack Mortimer seconded and motion was approved unanimously.

6. New Business: Councilman Bill Jonson announced meetings being held for CDBG and home funds to discuss a 5-year consolidated action plan. Topics to include housing, public services and facilities, and homelessness in three low-income areas. Mr. Jonson recommended that CNC reach out to representatives from these areas to invite them to the May meeting.

CPD Officer Selena Hyppolite announced that Neighborhoods Day was rained out April 2 and will be re-held on April 23. A prescription drug take-back event is set for April 30, a shredding event is scheduled for May 21 at Countryside Mall, and Diversity Day will be June 11. A recent prostitution sweep netted several arrests.

State Rep. Chris Latvala updated CNC attendees on recent efforts to combat the drug "spice" throughout the city. Rep. Latvala participated in a ride-along and visited the ER to see the impact of the problem first-hand. He hopes to introduce a bill in the next state legislative session to address the issue of "spice" and other hallucinogenics and will also bring the issue before city council to discuss solutions and tactics at the city level. Rep. Latvala praised CPD for its efforts in combatting the problem.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

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