

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition

Meeting Minutes • Monday, November 7, 2016

1-2. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm with welcome and introductions.

3. Guest Speaker: Joy Hancock, Ride Director for Bike Florida. Ms. Hancock discussed her organization which conducts bike tours throughout the state, and discussed the state of bike trails throughout Florida, Pinellas County and Clearwater. She reports that biking is critical to economic development, transportation and quality of life. Florida is gaining popularity among biking enthusiasts, and the Coast to Coast Trail, which will connect to the Pinellas Trail, will be complete in 3 to 5 years. Ms. Hancock recommended improvements to the Pinellas Trail through Clearwater including the possibility of lighting, smoother surface transitions from the trail to cross-streets (by smoothing out drainage gullies), improved signage, and a dedicated connection from the Trail to the downtown waterfront.

4. Officers' Reports

Secretary Spencer Cook summarized minutes of the October meeting. Motion to approve made by Doug Williams and seconded by Lee Mortimer. Motion approved unanimously. Spencer also reported on US19 initiatives. The city is moving forward with the wayfinding project and Planning & Development will hold another Stakeholder Committee meeting in November to address concerns connected to the US19 Redevelopment Standards.

Treasurer Doug Williams presented Treasurer's Report. Expenses included the monthly \$6 web fee. Doug confirmed Clearwater Gas has agreed to renew its \$1500 annual sponsorship. CNC membership dues are due January 1 and membership forms will be posted to the CNC website. Motion to approve made by Spencer Cook and seconded by Karen Cunningham. Motion approved unanimously.

Vice-President Karen Cunningham praised the meeting turnout and encouraged attendees to come to the December 5 Holiday Party at Nauti Nancy's. Karen urged attendees to fill out the attendance form each month to allow CNC to keep better contact information records.

President Warshauer reported Imagine Clearwater workshops are coming up November 29-30. Attendees were urged to visit www.imagineclearwater.com for the latest information. The November workshops will allow the public to see the preliminary plans for downtown waterfront redevelopment and will be the final opportunity for residents to voice their opinions to the consultants in person.

5. Other Monthly Reports

Selena Hyppolite, Clearwater Police Department announced a number of upcoming events including Touch a Truck November 12, the Great American Teach-In November 16, and holiday food and gift distribution events November 18, 20 and 23. CPD is

reporting an increase in gun thefts from homes and vehicles, and all residents are urged to keep their homes, vehicles and firearms secure at all times.

Lawrence Young, Clearwater Neighborhoods Coordinator reported that his department will proceed with a North Marina Demonstration project in January which will include a lane reduction, on-street parking, sidewalk extensions and other improvements on Fort Harrison Avenue, a bike lane and other changes to Osceola Avenue, and improvements to Nicholson and Eldridge Streets. He also announced Clearwater Neighborhoods day will be April 8, 2017.

6. Committee Reports

Ric Ortega, Code Enforcement Committee Chair reported that the committee's first meeting is still pending and asked for input related to code enforcement concerns. The committee will study ways to clarify and improve the city's code language to allow for easier and more timely enforcement of city codes. The committee will recommend changes to present to city council.

Ric Ortega, Florida Neighborhoods Conference: Ric attended to the conference and distributed related pamphlets and other information to CNC attendees. The conference provided helpful information on using online tools including but not limited to Nextdoor, Yahoo groups and E-Democracy to improve neighborhood association and CNC communication efforts. A general discussion ensued related to the use of moderated vs. unmoderated groups. A meeting attendee also suggested CNC contact WTAN to pursue the possibility of a CNC radio show and there was discussion about possibly recording CNC meetings for online playback.

Treasurer Doug Williams, Holiday Party: The party will be Monday, December 5 at 7pm and will feature a complimentary buffet and cash bar. Brief CNC business will be conducted at the start of the party. Invitations and RSVP forms will be sent out via email.

Lee Mortimer, Nominating Committee: The slate of candidates for 2017 remains the same with all officers agreeing to serve another term. Lee moved to accept the candidate slate as presented. Motion seconded by **Linda Kubilius** and approved unanimously.

7. Old Business

Neighborhood Revitalization: President Warshauer will attend city council on November 17 to urge council to prioritize Penny IV money for trails, sidewalks and traffic calming. Vice Mayor Bill Jonson reported council and staff are currently discussing the Penny for Pinellas list.

Sewage Plant Update: Mr. Jonson reported that workers continue to pump sewage from the Marshall Street plant and the plant must be completely cleaned and sanitized before officials can inspect and recommend specific repairs.

Drew Street Complete Streets Project: Karen Cunningham spoke on the issue before city council and council approved funding for a grant writer. Karen and Joanna Siskin praised council members and City Manager Bill Horne for their proactive and prompt action on the issue.

8. New Business

Vice President Karen Cunningham volunteered to chair a By-law Review Committee and asked for committee members. Linda Kubilius and Joanna Siskin volunteered to participate.

Mary Ellen Lansburg made a motion requesting that CNC make a holiday donation of \$100 to RCS. Spencer Cook seconded the motion and after discussion the motion passed 4-3. Karen Cunningham agreed to check the bylaws to confirm the viability of making the donation.

Ric Ortega asked for CNC support and participation in an upcoming Architecture and Community Design forum at Clearwater High School. Ric agreed to move the tentative date for the conference to late January/early February to give CNC time to consider the issue at its January meeting.

9. Next meeting will be the CNC Holiday Party on Monday, December 5 at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

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