

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition

Meeting Minutes • Monday, August 7, 2017

1-2. Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. President Howard Warshauer not present; VP Karen Cunningham welcomed attendees who introduced themselves. Some attendees provided updates on happenings in their neighborhoods including a new association in the Milton Park area and the upcoming "Tour de Snap" event in the Skycrest area on October 14. More information can be obtained by emailing tourdesnap@gmail.com.

3. Guest Speaker: None.

4. Officers' Reports

Secretary Spencer Cook announced that June minutes (no July meeting) were posted on the CNC website for review. Motion to approve made by Doug Williams and seconded by Joanna Siskin. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer Doug Williams presented Treasurer's Report. Several dues have been paid and expenses included \$491 to Wix and GoDaddy for domain registration and website updates and services. Motion to approve made by Joanna Siskin and seconded by Mary Ellen Lansburg. Motion approved unanimously.

Vice-President Karen Cunningham announced progress has been made to update and simplify the CNC website. CNC was able to regain ownership of the domain name so the website address (clearwatercoalition.org) remains the same. VP Cunningham wants to include a "toolbox" on the site to assist neighborhood leaders in setting up and maintaining neighborhood associations. Anyone with articles, information or resources should contact Karen directly.

5. Other Reports

Officer Selena Hyppolite, Clearwater Police Department reported that a cellphone theft ring is hitting retail establishments in the area with \$90 thousand worth of phones stolen to date. Vehicle burglaries in the city were up from 20 in June to 43 in July. Officer Hyppolite reminded attendees that school starts this week and that drivers should use extra caution.

Lawrence Young, Clearwater Neighborhoods Coordinator, reported a new My Clearwater magazine is due out next week. The city is also considering a neighborhood newsletter. Penny IV discussions are underway. The city is also working on a placemaking manual to help neighborhoods conduct their own improvement projects.

6. Old Business

a. Discussion of Speaker Series: Feedback was solicited online and opinions sought regarding the Spring Speaker Series and whether CNC should continue the initiative. Attendees' comments included the opinion that three speakers in a row were too many— perhaps one in the spring and one in the fall would be more appropriate— and that subjects should be more focused on neighborhoods. Some felt the Annual Conference idea had more merit. One attendee liked having more speakers like Susan Ajoc from St. Petersburg; another felt the speeches should be shorter.

b. Upcoming CNC Needs/Ideas and Planning Committee for Assembly of Neighborhood Leaders: VP Cunningham sought ideas and opinions for the upcoming assembly. Attendees suggested the conference focus on neighborhoods and helping neighborhood residents develop associations. Another attendee felt CNC should focus more on city issues. A suggestion was made to have a CNC representative speak at each city council meeting with speeches approved by CNC in advance. VP Cunningham asked Joanna Siskin to lead a City Council Presentation Subcommittee.

VP Cunningham outlined upcoming CNC needs including the website, updated mission statement, brochure, Facebook page, online toolkit and Neighborhoods Survey. An attendee suggested CNC should visit individual neighborhood associations to build CNC membership.

Attendees were divided into groups to formulate ideas for the upcoming conference. Groups reported on their ideas and the following were presented for further study/approval:

- The conference should bear the formal annual name of “Clearwater Neighborhoods Convention” plus an informal subtitle for promotional purposes, to be changed each year.
- The conference should be Saturday, November 4 from 9am to 12pm.
- The location for the conference should be centrally located.
- There should be two speakers; preliminary topics were identified as “Making Neighborhoods Safer” and “Neighborhood Improvement and the Broken Window Theory.”
- Councilman Bill Jonson suggested Jeff Kronschabl (former Clearwater city employee and current professor at St. Petersburg College) as the speaker for the second topic. Discussion ensued as to whether the broken window theory applied only to homeowners or whether the city should share the commitment for improving neighborhoods through improved and consistent upkeep of public areas.

- Groups discussed whether to end the conference with breakout groups or whether attendees should spend the last portion of the convention discussing and passing a formal resolution stating specific goals for CNC to pursue the following year.

VP Cunningham asked Mary Ellen Lansburg to study possible speakers and topics for “Making Neighborhoods Safer.” Spencer Cook was asked to study possible speakers and topics for “Neighborhood Improvement and the Broken Window Theory.” All attendees were asked to develop further ideas and bring them back to the September CNC meeting for formal approval.

7. New Business: Tabled due to time constraints.

8. Next meeting: Labor Day is Monday, September 4, so the next CNC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

###