

CLEARWATER NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION  
Meeting Minutes June 5, 2017

President Howard Warshauer called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Marybeth Dunn reported on recycling perks. There is a giftback program whereby a nonprofit can receive \$5 for sign-up of new members. Businesses are also encouraged to participate. Winners of a \$1,000 give away will be announced tomorrow. May 18 begins another giveaway. Presently only 27% of eligible users are registered. The goal is to get to 50%.

Officer Croze gave a police report. There has been a major problem with IRS scamming. One resident was contacted by telephone by a female who claimed to be an IRS agent. She was told that she had been contacted by letter numerous times. When the woman called explained that she had never received a letter, the caller gave the address supposedly sent, the woman's address backwards. The caller was very convincing in tone. The woman realized she was being scammed when the caller told her to create an account online for the transfer of funds. Fortunately, the scam wasn't successful. Officer Croze said that the IRS will never contact anyone by telephone. They will always send someone to the house. Residents are asked to inform the police when they get such calls.

Whit Blanton, executive director of Forward Pinellas gave a presentation on transportation planning. He said that transportation planning should be the outgrowth of land usage planning. The goal is to create economic development and quality of life. Forward Pinellas has a countywide land use plan. The county is divided into 16 land use classifications for planning purposes, which makes for more predictable outcomes. The MPO will be looking at ways to provide grants to local communities to help them reach the goal of walkable communities.

Local transportation planning will eventually be linked to a regional MPO, likely to be established in approximately two years. There will be challenges in that Pinellas has been operating our MPO using representatives from all its municipalities. When the regional integration occurs, there won't be more than 25 representatives of three counties, including Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough. Another challenge will be integrating transit agencies, airports, and freeways in this plan.

Mr. Blanton stated that our highways are overburdened. Two-thirds of all trips are for less than 3 miles. Local road networks need to be able to absorb more of the traffic, but this is complicated by the fact that we can't build or expand roads, due to lack of available right of way.

Pinellas ranks high for its trails and its Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) which controls the signal system. The ITS is successful during most of the day, but it can't work well during rush hour, when traffic from all four sides of an intersection are equally backed up.

Much of Forward Pinellas efforts will be directed at creating "complete streets." The ideal is to have all neighborhoods within a 20 minute walking or bicycling distance from essential services, such as grocery, drug stores, etc. Drew Street will be an important test project for Clearwater. Complete streets does not have one set of components applied to all streets. Instead it creates customized solutions depending on the needs of the neighborhood and the designation of the street, such as commercial, residential, freight movement, etc.

Asked what CNC can do to promote complete streets, Mr. Blanton said that we should talk to our neighbors.

Council member Jonson reported that this month PSTA is offering \$35 transit passes to the public. These can be used on any line for unlimited number of trips.

At 8:15 Mr. Warshauer asked for board reports. The minutes from the May meeting were approved with no revisions. The treasurer's report was also approved. Mr. Warshauer asked the members for ideas about what they wanted to see in future CNC meetings. Suggestions included more presentations on a variety of topics including programs, city departments and events. Karen Cunningham asked for volunteers to develop a program in the fall to help neighborhood associations with their specific problems and interests. Examples included crime prevention and financial management.

Joanne Siskin announced that Skycrest neighborhood will be sponsoring a bicycle event in October. Details will be forthcoming. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.