

**Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition
Meeting Minutes • Monday, October 2, 2017**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Mayor George Cretekos was in attendance and reported the city is doing the best it can to clear debris from Hurricane Irma. He thanked all city employees who are working 6 to 7 days per week. Mayor Cretekos reminded everyone to vote in the November 7 election, including the Penny for Pinellas renewal and Imagine Clearwater referendum.

2. Introductions of those present.

3A. Guest Speaker: Earl Gloster, Director, Solid Waste/General Services. Mr. Gloster announced the city has already picked up 6.3 million pounds of Hurricane Irma debris— 5 months' worth— in just 17 days. Workers from multiple departments are working 12 hour shifts and a contractor is also working to clear the debris. Workers are sweeping the city in order of pickup day. Monday is complete and Tuesday's collection was expected to be complete this week. Public Communications will keep residents updated. The city hopes to have the Friday zone complete by Halloween but Mr. Gloster said there are no guarantees.

3B. Guest Speaker: Jevon Graham, Assistant Chief of Emergency Management. Mr. Graham says Clearwater was very fortunate not to be hit harder by Hurricane Irma. Millions of dollars in damage has been reported and FEMA is providing assistance. Residents can call 1-800-621-FEMA or go online. Mr. Graham was asked what the number one lesson is for residents. He answered that residents should evacuate immediately if told to do so.

4. Member opportunity to bring up neighborhood items. Marcia Powell from Milton Park reported that a tree fell onto a power line after the storm and the problem was solved quickly thanks to their neighborhood association. Carl Schrader reported that coyotes are becoming an issue in his neighborhood. Vice President Cunningham says the county extension service can provide a guest speaker on the topic.

5. CNC Officer Reports:

Secretary Spencer Cook announced that the August minutes (the September meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Irma) were posted on the CNC website for review. Motion to approve made by Doug Williams and seconded by Jack Mortimer. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer Doug Williams presented Treasurer's Report. No new income reported; expenses included web and postal service costs. Annual sponsorship income is expected soon. 2018 dues are due beginning in January. Motion to approve made by Karen Cunningham and seconded by Jack Mortimer. Motion approved unanimously.

Vice-President Karen Cunningham asked members to be sure to check the website for minutes, agendas and meeting notices. She is currently working on a "who we are" page for the website. Carl Schrader asked about the possibility of putting the CNC

hurricane preparedness plan back on the site. VP Cunningham suggested the CNC keep the site as simple as possible. Attendees expressed interest in getting a copy of the plan for use in their own neighborhoods and the plan will be made available in some form for members to use.

President Howard Warshauer reported that there are two Imagine Clearwater public meetings left, October 9 at the Countryside Library and October 11 at the East Library. President Warshauer also urged the city to prioritize completion of the trail system including the Druid Road Trail and Duke Energy Trail segments.

6. Other Reports

Officer Selena Hyppolite, Clearwater Police Department reported that National Night Out will be held October 3 with free food, a helicopter, K9 unit and other activities. Wednesday October 4 is International Walk to School Day. CPD and the city are starting the "Safety Net" program which utilizes bracelets to help track elderly and special needs residents in distress. There have been a rash of Burger King and convenience store robberies in the county and CPD is stepping up patrols. A recent prostitution roundup operation netted several arrests.

Lawrence Young, Clearwater Neighborhoods Coordinator, reported on several upcoming events including National Night Out and a Community Dental Clinic on October 14.

7. Old Business

a. Discussion of Speaker Series for 2018: President Warshauer suggested CNC repeat the Mayor's State of the City Address in April in addition to the annual Neighborhoods Conference which will be held in February (moved from the fall due to the hurricane).

b. Planning Committee for February Assembly of Neighborhood Leaders: VP Cunningham presented the proposed new mission statement and vision for CNC:

Mission Statement: *The Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition works to enhance the quality of life, safety and sustainability for the city and its neighborhoods.*

Motion to approve made by Jack Mortimer, seconded by Carl Schrader and passed unanimously.

Vision Statement: (Revised by attendees to the following): *To become trusted as a primary source for information and advocacy for Clearwater neighborhoods and neighborhood associations.*

Motion to approve by Doug Williams, seconded by Marcia Powell and passed unanimously.

Conference discussion ensued. Members were asked if they preferred the Main Library or Countryside Library and whether Saturday mornings or afternoons were better. An informal consensus vote was taken with attendees preferring Saturday, February 10, 2018 from 1 to 4pm at the Main Library.

Discussion of the conference continued. Issues/speakers will include Law Enforcement/ Crime Prevention and Code Enforcement. Breakout groups will follow with conference attendees asked to envision Clearwater in the year 2037 and what the city's transportation, housing, etc. will look like at that time.

VP Cunningham suggested hiring someone to videotape the conference and distribute copies of the video on DVD or online. Other ideas included sponsorships, door prizes, raffle tickets, neighborhood pride and champion awards, discounts from local restaurants, and inviting city departments and/or sponsors (such as Property Management Companies or HOA attorneys) to set up tables.

The following attendees volunteered to serve on the Neighborhoods Conference Organizing Committee:

VP Karen Cunningham (chair)
Joanna Siskin
Jack and Lee Mortimer
Kathleen Agnew
Carl and Shawn Schrader

8. New Business

a. Nominations Committee for new officers: Jack and Lee Mortimer will serve on the nominating committee with nominations for 2018 officer positions due next month.

b. Annual Holiday Celebration: Scheduled at Nauti Nancy's on Tuesday, December 5. Motion to accept budget of \$550 made by Spencer Cook, seconded by Carl Schrader and passed unanimously.

9. Other Business: Joanna Siskin announced that Skycrest will present its Tour De Snap event on Saturday, October 14 from 9am to noon. Next CNC meeting scheduled for Monday, November 6th.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

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