

Minutes of the CNC Meeting February 7, 2022

At 7 p.m., President Carl Schrader called the meeting to order and introduced the guest speaker, Joelle Castelli, Director of Communications for the City of Clearwater.

Joelle showed a PowerPoint presentation that described the Communications Department and what it does. She described the city's social media accounts and publications. She said she welcomes feedback and always want to know how to do things better.

Joelle announced the following:

Neighborhoods Day will be March 26 from 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

The City of Clearwater will be holding two city council candidate forums: Seat 4 will be held on February 15 and Seat 5 will be held on February 16.

To get on the mailing list to receive My Clearwater magazine, send an email to Joelle at joelle.castelli@myclearwater.com.

A new position for a Communications Manager in the Communications Department will be filled on February 24.

Lt. Shante Dean gave his police report. He said traffic stops were up 80%. Drew St. speeders will be given tickets of \$256. He stated that Chief Slaughter was very pro-amendment about allowing free speech and would come down hard on people who did any damage to campaign signs.

Carl Schrader said that the CNC Candidate Forum went well. He repeated that March 26 was Neighborhoods Day.

The Secretary's Report was given.

Bill Jonson made a motion to approve the minutes from January meeting. Chris Michalek seconded the motion.

Rudy Michalek gave the Treasurer's Report. He stated that there are now 17 members.

Kathleen Agnew made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Glenna Wentworth seconded the motion.

Liz Drayer announced that she would reimburse 50 people who each planted a native tree in their yard, one tree per address.

She said the Environmental Committee recommends that the city buy properties and return them to their natural state. She said there was an international effort to restore 30% of land.

They want to have a second installment of the Building Better Neighborhoods series with topics of renewable energy, electric vehicles and solar energy. There were 150+ people that attended the last series. Karen Cunningham said it went very well.

People can contact Liz Drayer about the native trees at edrayer@tampabay.rr.com.

Bruce Rector visited Tallahassee with David Allbritton. They met with 6 – 7 legislators about short term rentals and their impact on neighborhoods. They want to keep the same control on short term rentals. All are supporting Home Rule.

There will be a surplus of funds and they are discussing how to distribute them. They turned down support for a transit center a couple of times, but maybe there is a grant.

Bruce sits in on a weekly call-in put on by the Chamber.

There are no new updates from the Bylaws Committee.

New Business

Report of the CNC's Committee on Land Use Conflict Resolution: The Committee gave an interim report by PowerPoint and discussed at length one item it is recommending, the "Clearwater Neighborhood Association Bill of Rights."

The Committee was originally called the "Ombudsman Committee" but expanded its mission to include other conflict resolution techniques and address other issues in land use decision-making in our city. The committee met during the last 12 months and presented an interim report to the City Council in June 2021. The Final Report of the committee will be brought back to the full CNC membership at the March 2022 monthly meeting.

If the city receives an application to change the land use in any way, the developer – within 10 days – must send out notice to the CNC and to any neighborhood association within 200 feet of the land. Each neighborhood association who registers with the city will receive relevant notices. The association names a contact person to receive notices. The neighborhood association then has up to 30 days to request an "Informal Meeting" with the City staff, the developer, and the neighborhood representatives to ask questions, address concerns and make suggestions. The city staff must commit to writing any agreements reached during the Informal Meeting which then become part of the developer's application under review.

Questions were asked and answered about detailed provisions in the proposed Neighborhood Association Bill of Rights.

Land use changes means any proposed change to zoning or affecting any land, public or private, in the city of Clearwater. Ten days notice to HOAs is enough since it is not a notice of hearing, but an advance notice within ten days of the filing of an application for a land use change.

There was discussion to increase the number of members on the Community Development Board which hears cases on land use changes to ten people, and balance the CDB with five professional residents and five non-industry land use residents.

Chris Michalek said that three positions have opened up on the CDB. And said that its important that people apply who represent diversity, and at the minimum have an environmentalist. We need to look for qualified people in the next two weeks – people who are diverse socially and economically. In two weeks there will be another council meeting.

Bill Jonson said as the President of the League of Women's Voters that there is an election coming up on March 15. Do you want your vote to count? Make sure you are currently registered at votepinellas.com. There will be no drop boxes, no early voting and people need to register before February 14.

The candidates who were present (Aaron Smith-Levin, Lina Teixeira, Maranda Douglas and David Allbritton) were asked to give a one-minute elevator speech.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.