

CNC April Minutes
Meeting over ZOOM

VP Bill Jonson called the meeting to order

Speaker: Brian Aungst, Sr. Interim Mayor was not able to attend.

Jennifer Poirrer talked to neighbors.

Jonson said Neighborhood's Day was a success. Poirrer said there were 40 parties. She was able to make it to about 9 of them.

Speaker: Erika Escamilla, Neighborhoods Coordinator

Escamillia said Neighborhoods Day was successful. She will be going to neighborhoods who participated to get feedback for improvement.

Escamillia said Amber Brice SP? Is the new Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator. She said another neighborhood coordinator is going to be hired soon.

Escamillia listed a series of upcoming events in April. Arbor Day celebration where neighbors can get two trees for free is April 22 ??

Karen Cunningham asked if the events were listed on the city calendar. Escamillia said they are available on the calendar and online.

Jonson asked new members to introduce themselves and thanked them for attending.

Jonson said he wanted Aungst to attend to meet and greet with neighbors.

Kathleen Agnew suggested to Jonson that someone could send Aungst a list of the represented neighborhoods in CNC.

Secretary's Report:

Motion of minutes as posted online made by Karen Cunningham and second by Kristin Langley. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Rudy Michalek updated on membership and costs.

Motion to approve treasurer report by Agnew and second by DeSantis. Passed unanimously.

Old Business

Tree recording and removal

Jonson said the issue first came up in January. There was initial interest to form a committee but that group has not yet started. Jonson gave an update on where the city is with its tree policy. Chuck Lane is working to develop policy which will be shared with CM and then with city council. Jonson said Tampa has a robust tree policy and one of the largest urban tree canopies in the world. Jonson said there is a list of people interested in following the tree policy issue. They will be informed as there are updates.

Drew Street Complete Street Update

Jonson said a draft letter of support by the council is on the agenda for the City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 4.

Cunningham said the project has been discussed by CNC for nearly a decade. Cunningham said FDOT has spent \$400,000 for engineering studies on the complete street concept. She said \$8 million is set aside for the project. She said residents who live near the street have documented public safety issues. She said the street was initially designed as a residential street not a commercial thoroughfare. She said the changes to reduce the number of lanes might not make it a faster road, but it will make it a safer road. She said FDOT is looking for community support.

Michalek noted a [recent column in the Tampa Bay Times from former Mayor Hibbard](#) opposing the Drew Street project.

Council Member Kathleen Beckman said it's an important topic and many residents have probably driven along Drew Street. She said what Cunningham said is accurate. She said the project information is available through the council agenda.

Kristin Langley said she travels the road several times a week. She said right turns are a problem.

Cunningham said there is no one solution. She said engineers took into account many considerations as they designed the project. She said much of the street would not have lane reduction. Lane reduction would be in a small portion of the project. She said updated traffic light timing would also be part of the project.

Jonson said people speed along Drew Street even at its most narrow sections. Jonson urged members to attend the council meeting and support the project.

Jonson gave a list of council items for the upcoming City Council meeting. There will be an update on the recycling program. There will be a contract for CM Poirrer. There will be a new member selected to the Community Development Board. Jonson suggested members should apply to the CDB board.

Beckman said there is a plan for 24 townhomes planned for Lake Bellevue Neighborhood by Habitat for Humanity. The city would help fund a solar program for those homes. GreenPrint indicates a goal of equipping 1,000 low/moderate income homes with solar. She also said there will also be an update on Coachman Park

New Business

Neighborhood Roundtable, leaders of various neighborhood groups throughout the city shared issues impacting their neighborhood

Jonson opened it up to neighbors. He called on Joe Corvino to start. Corvino said they did not have a specific issue but joined to get his neighborhood involved and more active.

Barbara Findler, Woodgate I and II. Their issue is with roads sinking and cracking. On Feb. 3 this issue was sent to city officials. She said Traffic Engineering was looking into the issue but they had not heard back. She asked what is the timeline for repaving neighborhood streets and where is her neighborhood on that list?

Jonson suggested talking to Neighborhood Division/Escamillia. Escamillia said she would follow up.

Agnew said work on a flyover project at US 19 and Curlew Road will be starting soon. It is expected to last at least a couple of years. Neighbors should be prepared for potential traffic from drivers cutting through because of the project, she said.

Cathy Morgan suggested the city should do something about chain link fences. The aesthetics of the fences is not consistent with it being a tourist destination.

Jonson said a state landscaper helped work to change policy to allow options for fencing. Jonson was not sure if those policies were in place at the city level but suggested it is something to follow up on.

Cunningham asked for neighbors to share things that worked well for their neighborhoods day events. She said she went to Agnew's event, which was a breakfast.

Glenna Wentworth said their neighborhood is talking about having block parties throughout Morningside. She said they have a pool party at the Morningside Recreation Center. She said the neighborhood also has a garage sale in the fall (first weekend in November).

Jonson asked members if there were any issues they would like to see discussed at the May meeting.

Jonson said Aungst Sr. will likely be at the next meeting. He mentioned some of the work he did for neighborhoods during his previous time as mayor.

Jonson adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.