

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition
Meeting minutes
May 7, 2012

The Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition May 2012 meeting was held at the Salvation Army Joy Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by the President, Ms. Shelley Kuroghlian. In attendance were those members and guests highlighted on the sign-in sheet for May 7, 2012.

Prior to the presenting the items on the agenda, a motion was made by Norma Carlough to accept last month's meeting minutes, seconded by Howard Warshauer and the motion passed unanimously.

I. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Doug Williams presented the Treasurer's report. He reported that \$65 was taken in, and after expenses the ending balance was \$25.68. He encouraged everyone present to pay their dues. Motion to accept the report was made by Ron Delp and seconded by Carl Schrader. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Web Report

Mr. Carl Schrader reported that the website was moved to a new hosting service and though there were some problems at first, there was no downtime. Ms. Kuroghlian discussed some problems with printing the online agenda and minutes, but Carl said that this is a problem with Microsoft Explorer (being fixed) and not Firefox or Chrome. Mr. Schrader reported that there are new subscribers to the newsletter and that the Facebook page is up and running, also that the social media offerings are getting some hits.

III. Publicity Committee

Nothing to report.

IV. Membership Committee

Ms. Julie Thompson stated that things will get rolling more in the months ahead. Mr. Jack Mortimer reported that he and his wife Lee have started the Downtown Neighborhood Association for residents. Someone mentioned that more information is needed from Larry Floyd. Ron Delp suggested that everyone make some phone calls to promote membership; Norma Carlough said that phone calls aren't enough – it requires in-home visits and discussions of the person's own neighborhood problems. Shelley Kuroghlian encouraged everyone to tell their own stories when they talk to others.

V. Guest Speakers

1. Officer Brian Dewitt gave a report about a very recent prostitution detail in East Gateway that resulted in 3 arrests on May 4. Shelley Kuroghlian said that the police need to keep

the heat on because the prostitutes were out of jail the next day and are as aggressive as ever. Officer Dewitt asked everyone to report anything they see. Next he spoke about the homeless situation. The police are doing everything they can, and are doing much better overall (not just regarding the homeless) in networking and partnering with the County.

2. Mr. Eric Wilson, the City's Public Information Officer, spoke about the difference between city and county response times, and we should set our expectations accordingly.
3. Commissioner Neil Brickfield, said that the county does nothing by itself; things are always done in cooperation with cities. The county is complaint driven, but doesn't have the funds to expand the code enforcement area. He said that three things have been discussed:
 - a. More code enforcement officers.
 - b. Wanting to find a city to partner with them on a pilot approach.
 - c. Using more of a neighborhood approach to the county services rather than handling problems with six different people from six different agencies.

VI. Old Business (CNC event)

Mr. Howard Warshauer reported that the event committee met in February and March and decided that a CNC picnic in Crest Lake Park would be the ideal event. However, he and his main associate have been hit with unexpected issues that prevent them from working on the idea for the next 5 or 6 months. He recommends that the planning be postponed until January for a 2013 event. Norma Carlo and Shelley Kuroghlian suggested that the event might serve as a way to get support for cleaning up and enhancing the park and perhaps make it a showpiece.

VII. East Gateway/Homeless Report

Ms. Julie Thompson said that their meeting will take place on Wednesday May 9 at St. Cecilia's library. Homeless expert Dr. Marbut will be addressing the meeting, and Julie encouraged everyone to attend. She mentioned that Clearwater was recently labeled the second-friendliest city to homeless, behind only Key West.

VIII. Resident Quality of Life/Values Survey

Mr. Carl Schrader reported that Pinellas and Largo collaborated on a very successful survey and CNC should do something similar for Clearwater. Jack Mortimer said that this sounds like a great promotional opportunity for CNC to reach more citizens and that such a project would align with CNC's mission. Howard Warshauer advised that we should look at the results of the Largo survey before deciding on CNC's role. A link to the survey will be sent to members.

IX. Membership Input

Mr. Dean asked if CNC wants to support forums for the 7 new sheriff candidates and the 8 constitutional amendments. Shelley Kuroghlian asked for a vote on a sheriff candidate forum and the majority voted Yes. The best timing would be late June or July.

X. Candidates

1. Ms. Cathy McKyton is running for Circuit Court Judge Group 2. Her credentials include being a prosecutor for years.
2. Ms. Kim Campbell is running for Circuit Court Judge Group 31. She has been both a prosecutor and defense attorney, and was a past president of the Clearwater Bar Association.
3. Commissioner Neil Brickfield is running for re-election as County Commissioner. He reviewed the basic services that the county performs.

XI. City Council Report

Councilmember Jay Polglaze reported that the city is giving serious attention to the homeless issue and that the City would be taking a new position soon. He said that homeless people have moved to Clearwater from other cities that have taken a stronger stance, and that Clearwater needs to change its approach.

XII. Adjournment

No further business was presented and Ms. Shelley Kuroghlian adjourned the May 7 2012 meeting of the Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition at approximately 9:00 pm. Motion made by Doug Williams and seconded by Greg Mathes.

Minutes submitted by: Jack Mortimer, Member