

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition
Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2015

President Carl Schrader called the meeting to order. Members present are per the sign-in sheet on file.

Secretary's Report

Shelly Kuroghlian was not present so a motion was made by Doug Williams to accept minutes from the May 4, 2015 meeting as posted on the website. Motion seconded by Howard Warshauer and passed.

Treasurer's Report

Doug Williams presented the CNC financial information as of July 31, 2015. \$40 collected was noted to be the result of a membership letter going out. Karen Cunningham moved to accept the report as written, seconded by Spencer Cook, approved.

Old Business

Urban Land Institute – Carl Schrader opened discussion on CNC representation on the ULI study implementation hosting committee for community forums. Jack Mortimer will provide Carl with a draft letter to the City Council requesting a seat on the committee alongside the CRA, Chamber, Downtown Development Board and Downtown Partnership. Members of the CNC Downtown/Coachman Park Committee offered to attend any meetings and forums Carl cannot.

Assistant City Manager Rod Irwin is scheduled to address the October CNC meeting on what role can be played.

Vice President Howard Warshauer described Raleigh, North Carolina's booming downtown and growth, and noted that they are also working on a new downtown plan.

City Council member Bill Jonson reported on an update Mr. Irwin gave to the work group, with the planning committee deciding to bring in a development consultant and designs coming from the City's branding committee from a conceptual plan that was presented to the council in April.

Membership Committee – Chairman Karen Cunningham sent a letter to the list of neighborhood associations. There was discussion of the issues of keeping neighborhood contact information current and increasing CNC meeting attendance. Karen will ask the new City neighborhoods liaison to update the list of contacts. Spencer Cook called for an annual neighborhood summit, as a high profile event. Spencer and JoAnna Siskin will serve on a summit committee, with assistance from Karen, Jack and Howard. The summit was scheduled for November. Presidents and vice presidents of the strongest neighborhood committees will be encouraged to attend and the mayor will be invited. It was decided that key issues for the CNC are relevance to its neighborhoods and being current. Products sought for the summit are: 1) Priorities for 2016, 2) Commitment for neighborhoods to attend CNC meetings, 3) Unity approach with a sense of hometown.

JoAnna volunteered to go to neighborhood meetings and asked other members to do so as well. Dates of the meetings can be determined after the November summit.

Fishing Event – The event has been moved to spring.

New Business

City Staffing - It will be a growth year for the City, with 42.3 additional staff heads budgeted. Howard pointed out that unless the milage rate is reduced taxes will go up with property values. Carl will contact City Manager Bill Horn about bringing Neighborhood Services up to a full time rather than half time position.

Morningside Neighborhood Report – President Spencer Cook – The Morningside Recreation Center project is going forward, on Penny for Pinellas funds. Nine FTE's would be required to run the Center, with some part of the costs to be paid by fees. The Center is the number two priority in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, after Coachman Park. There will be a City Council vote at the August 6th meeting on including it in the next strategic plan and providing guidance to City staff. Support can be given at the Council meeting and with emails to Council members.

Community Gardens – Howard passed out flyers for the final fund-raiser, a summer brunch in the Fort Harrison Crystal Ballroom at 11:00 am on August 16. 100% of tickets sales goes to the Gardens. He reports that the gardens' water is in and the fences are up.

Scientology Info Center – Doug suggested that the new facility is worthwhile to visit and open to all.

Diversity Day – Community Liaison Supervisor Sgt. W. Lee introduced himself and sought feedback for a proposed Diversity Day in March or April for all community organizations, with fun competitive and cooperative activities and heritage addressed, e.g. with clothing. He suggested Crest Lake Park as the venue. It received Coalition support. The CNC fishing event could be held with it. JoAnna suggested sponsorship be sought from Solid Waste Services to avoid the need of event insurance.

Adjournment

Doug Williams moved to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Seconded by Howard Warshauer. Motion passed. The next meeting will be September 14 because the first Monday falls on Labor Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Mortimer
Member, Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition