

CNC Minutes July 11, 2022

Call to Order: Bill Jonson, Vice President

Plaques were presented to former CNC President, Joanne Siskin, who was not present, and Lt. Shante Dean, the former police department liaison for their service to the CNC.

Guest Speaker: Jon Jennings, Clearwater City Manager

Mr. Jennings said that his move to Clearwater to take the position was the best decision he's ever made professionally and it had nothing to do with wealth, but everything to do with opportunity. He's hit the ground running. They are moving forward with a new city hall and he's happy with development negotiations. They are finalizing the budget. They have an amazing city staff and they are adding new positions, while repurposing other positions that haven't been filled. They've brought back a neighborhood liaison. In regards to the Church of Scientology downtown, they are having a very good dialogue so they can work together and move things forward so there can be a vibrant downtown.

The City has begun proceeding with a shoreline study to study seawalls, tidal influence, and mangroves. The study is very comprehensive.

They've created a Public Utilities Department to work on infrastructure underground and there is more to be done.

They are taking a proactive approach to code enforcement and they do have code enforcement officers. He said, "We have to enforce our ordinances. I know that sometimes people get frustrated with us doing that. But if we are going to have ordinances on the books, we should be enforcing them. That is my pledge to you to do that even though difficult at times. We have really got to focus on beautifying and taking care of this beautiful city."

With the Pinellas Trail, Pinellas County is in charge of the Trail, but he has asked the County to work on the Clearwater portion of the trail. There is a memorandum of understanding to take over maintenance.

Future plans include working on traffic flow, enhancement to the North Greenwood CRA, lighting, streets, sidewalks, affordable housing. Current projects have suffered from the economy.

Mr. Jennings was not prepared to speak to the recommendations from the CNC's Leveling the Playing Field Report yet. It is being evaluated by staff.

Samantha Moullet, Neighborhood Services Division Manager, reported that they want to expand street art, murals and work on pothole issues.

The Secretary's Report for June was approved, as was the Treasurer's Report.

David Lillesand reports on the Membership Committee that they need to move forward.

For the Coachman Park Committee, Mr. Lillesand said there is a 135-page report and there should be a conservancy forming about the governance of the park for the future. He referred to two pages of programming that residents can have in the park that was put together by Karen Cunningham. He said the Parks & Rec Department will be responsible.

In Leveling the Playing Field Committee, they spent 13 months reviewing various options. Right now, we don't have a level playing field. There are eight different proposals of what we could do to move this forward. We're getting a lot more traction in meetings with City Manager Jon Jennings and City Attorney David Margolis in regards to Adoption of a Neighborhoods Bill of Rights.

There will be another hybrid meeting in September.

Bill Jonson announced that Kathleen Agnew had been awarded Mrs. Countryside 2022.

The August meeting will only be virtual. Beyond that the group would prefer to have the hybrid meeting format where we meet in person, but continue to offer the option of zoom participation as was offered in July. This would offer the additional option of member choosing the Zoom access method.

At 8:50 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.