

Carl Schrader called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Micki Thompson, president/CEO of 211 Tampa Bay Cares. The group's mission is to improve lives through the power of information and hope. It is a 501 C 3 non profit.

211 also has a sexual assault helpline, volunteer income tax assistance and supportive services for veteran families helpline.

Also offers community disaster relief info. Other services include Florida Veteran Peer Support, first responder peer support, homeless helpline and family caregiver support.

Senior services for mental wellness and crisis response outreach. A 40-page senior services directory is available.

211 has handled \$1.2 million in financial assistance in 2021-22. Manage the United Way Last Resort Fund, United Way RISE Eviction Fund, Duke Energy donated \$160K to Hope Fund, which helps with past due utilities and rent.

211 offers individuals and families in need a shortcut to assistance. There are a lot of resources but a lot are capped (at capacity) and some are not available (shelters for homeless families).

Majority of calls are for basic needs (food, shelter) as well as mental health needs.

211 services are available in 99 percent of the country.

988 suicide and Crisis hotline

988 number launched on July 16, 2022 and will be promoted nationally Spring 2023.

988 in the Tampa Bay area covers 10 counties. They get about 1,600 calls/month and 2880 texts/month. Pinellas has the most volume of calls

988lifeline.org is a website with support.

211tampabay.org is main site

<https://211tampabay.211counts.org/> will show calls/demographic info

Liz Drayer asked if calls are tracked to ensure callers are getting help they need.

Thompson said people do call back and at that time they ask/folo up.

Cheryl Acton asked for a brief history of 211. Who is qualified for the services? Group started about 50 years ago by a group of disc jockeys in St. Petersburg who kept getting calls. Eventually 211 formed through groups of volunteers. Eligibility is based on different qualifications including income and age.

Schrader asked about the callers who handle the calls. Thompson said 211 calls are seasonal. Fewer calls during Spring. Elevated volume after June. Volunteers do some follow up. Callers are trained and paid. 5-6 people work at 211 during the day. 988 there are about 4 people working. Calls to 988 can be longer, up to an hour on average.

Jennifer Poirrier, interim city manager. Wanted to be available to discuss issues regarding recycling and tree cutting.

There will be regular updates as more information is available. The grand opening of Imagine Clearwater will be soon.

Kristin Langley, are you implying that we are not recycling now?

Poirrier said we are back to recycling all materials that are not contaminated.

Schrader asked about CM Jennings' termination. What are the limits on CM ability to purchase?

Poirrier said that on projects there is a 10 percent contingency that would allow the purchase of larger expenses.

"Any purchase has to go through that. And it was within his authority to make that purchase."

Karen Cunningham asked about the opening of Coachman Park and the plans for programming.

Poirrier said PNR can attend a future meeting to talk about more programming.

Schrader said Kris Koch from Parks will be coming to a future meeting.

Trisha asked about tree ordinance and staffing for an urban forestry division.

Poirrier said a meeting with Public Works and PNR to develop an improved tree program.

"We're going to get it right and we are going to message the public at least once a month."

Poirrier encouraged residents to share their ideas to improve.

Mark Horn asked who is looking at the tree issue?

Poirrier said staff is meeting and discussing and she is updating council members.

Bill Jonson asked about the strategic planning schedule.

Poirrier said it will be March 20.

Samantha Moullet, Neighborhood Services Manager, came to introduce new neighborhood coordinator Erica Escamilla.

Moullet said Neighborhoods Day is March 25. There are 40 neighborhoods already signed up. There is a sustainability component this year.

Escamilla introduced herself. She said sign up for the neighborhood newsletter. She mentioned a Human Trafficking event is Feb. 9. A training to sign up for ARPA funding is Feb. 9 as well.

Secretary report: January motion made by Langley, second by Cunningham. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer report: 24 renewals and a couple more are "in the mail." Last year there were 30 total members. There were a couple of prospective members at the Sustainability conference.

\$736 in the bank. Nearly \$7K in the foundation bank account.

Treasurers report motion by Jonson. Second by Bruce Rector. Approved unanimously.

Schrader recognized Cunningham, Acton and others for their work on the Sustainability Conference.

New Business:

Bill Jonson, strategic planning. The current vision is that Clearwater will be a uniquely beautiful and vibrant community.

Vision and mission should include making sure the city is "the best." All parts of the city should be bright and beautiful.

Implement the Leveling the Playing Field recommendations.

Cunningham asked to add measurable objectives.

Schrader, Tree Removal, city is taking hiatus on tree cutting. During this time, would anyone be interested in creating a committee to examine tree issue?

Acton said she would like to be involved in a committee. Trisha Kirby said she would too. Jonson said he would help with research. Cathy Morgan would be interested to join when she joins CNC. Beth Davis said the same. Glenna Wentworth asked to join too. Annette Pardo. Alexandra Nixon.

Other business: Morgan asked about tree replacement.

Moulet said that the city will be working on a tree replacement program.

Schrader said the next meeting will be in person at 7 p.m. March 6 at the Fire Training Facility off Belcher Road.

Schrader adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

