

CNC October 2023 Minutes
Meeting via ZOOM, 28 participants

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

Update on trees in Clearwater rights of way, Dan Slaughter, Assistant City Manager

Slaughter gave an overview of the city's tree policy moving forward. The policy was recently presented to the City Council.

Slaughter said the city looked at the strategic plan for guidance. The plan calls for maintaining the urban forest and green space. He said there was also an opportunity to help neighborhoods through the policy.

Trees rated at a 0 will be removed. Those are trees that are dead or dying. Sidewalks, utilities and other infrastructure will be rerouted if possible. The goal is to not remove trees.

The policy also calls for increased communication with residents before a tree is removed. Notifications will be provided in multiple ways to the neighbor as well as the impacted neighborhood association.

Trees on public property not rated 0 will be removed if there's a life-safety issue. Property owners can maintain and prune trees in their right of way.

Slaughter said the city will replace five trees for every one removed. If they can't be replaced within a close proximity, they will be replaced in the neighborhood. If that's not possible another suitable location will be found. The goal is for the right tree to be planted in the right place.

An adopt a tree program will be started for neighbors and neighborhood associations.

Public works is working with a palm tree trimming company to maintain them.

Cheryl Acton expressed appreciation for the policy. She asked if the policy was limited only to public property. Slaughter said the policy does not cover private property.

Vice President Bill Jonson asked about trees on park property. Slaughter said the overarching policy is to preserve trees in public property in the right of way and in parks.

Nancy Diaz asked if the policy covers tagged trees and if more trees will be tagged. Slaughter said trees will be resurveyed.

Update on Clearwater Police Department, Eric Gandy, Clearwater Police Chief

Gandy gave a brief introduction of himself and 32 years working at the city.

Gandy said that he plans an enhanced presence for officers in the downtown core. He is working to interview 400 employees and make minor changes within the department as needed.

Gandy answered questions from members.

Jonson asked about overlap between the police department and the code compliance department. Gandy said there is some intersection between the two. Gandy said they try to work collaboratively.

Schrader asked about new recruits and turnover/job stress. Gandy said there can be very bad days. He said the job is not for everyone and shared concerns that some new recruits might not have the life experience to be able to stick it out.

Neighborhoods update, Samantha Moullet, Neighborhoods Manager

Moullet shared updates about the [Sister City program](#). Clearwater has participated for more than 60 years, one of the longest in the history of the program throughout the world. Moullet said the city recently expanded the program from Nagano, Japan, to also include Ixmiquilpan, Mexico.

Moullet mentioned the Hispanic Heritage Festival Oct. 15 at Crest Lake Park as well as The Big Cleanup week of cleanup events (Oct. 9-14).

Moullet said a dolphin mural will be painted live during the Art in the Park event at Coachman Park.

Moullet listed a [series of Halloween events](#).

Membership Business Portion

Secretary's Report:

Motion made by Jonson to accept minutes. Second by Rudy Michalek. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Rudy Michalek updated on membership and costs. 24 groups and 11 individual members. Kathleen Agnew made a motion to accept the treasurer report. Richard Desantis second. Passed unanimously.

Old Business: CNC Nominating Committee

Agnew said the committee work is coming along. She said the group has a history of volunteering and caring about the community. She said there are names for each position. The slate of officers is:

President: Bill Jonson

Vice President: Patrick Raferty
Secretary: Chelsea Gird
Treasurer: Rudy Michalek

New Business:

Holiday Party - planning for the end of year get together. Party at the overlook at Coachman Park. Schrader asked for members to volunteer on a party planning committee. Nancy Diaz, Nathan Flanery, Kathleen Agnew and Mary Ellen Lansburg volunteered.

Members share problems ideas/issues

Support Spring Branch Neighborhood in effort to oppose land use change of land near State Street Park.

Annette Pardue: Neighborhood association is not having meetings. Michalek offered some suggestions to help realign the group.

Mike Flanery talked about proliferating community gardens.

Next meeting is at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 on ZOOM.

Schrader adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.