

CNC September 2023 Minutes

Meeting Sept. 11 at the Clearwater Fire Training Facility, 35 participants

VP Bill Jonson called the meeting to order and honored the memory of the events of Sept. 11, 2001 with a prayer by Chaplain Bill James.

Participants/audience members introduced themselves.

Drew Complete Street Project Status Update and Advantage Pinellas 2050 Transportation Plan

Jonson introduced Whit Blanton. Blanton gave a brief introduction about himself and Forward Pinellas.

Blanton discussed upcoming projects throughout the county. He mentioned Forward Pinellas plans to oppose an upcoming project in Madeira Beach because of density.

Blanton talked about the "Complete Streets" funding. Complete streets is the concept that roadways accommodate the needs of all users. What a complete street looks like can vary, Blanton said. Blanton gave a background on the Drew Street Complete Street project, which was approved in 2018 by Clearwater city council. Blanton said city engineers pushed back on the project and said a feasibility study would need to be completed. Blanton said when the city did not budget for the feasibility study he approached the state, which did pay for it. Blanton said no city funding is involved in the \$8 million project. Drew Street will remain mostly the same from Keene Road east to U.S. 19. The road will be reduced to two lane, center median west of Keene Road. Blanton said there were 500 crashes along Drew Street from 2017 to 2021. Blanton said the Legislature slowed the project when an additional traffic study was required. Blanton said that study almost complete and the project will be able to start. Blanton said the Drew Street project should take about 18 months to complete. If started in August 2024 it could be complete in 2026.

Blanton mentioned [Advantage Pinellas](#), the long range plan for projects in the area through 2050. Blanton said planners expect an additional 120,000 new residents in the county by 2050.

Blanton answered questions from the audience before ending his presentation.

Clearwater Neighborhoods Department

Samantha Moullet, neighborhoods manager with the city, was not able to attend the meeting.

Erika Escamilla gave an update in place of Moullet. Escamilla said there was no update on the issue of contractors giving notice before working in easements. She gave an update on the water leak at the Main Library and said upcoming meetings planned at the library will be held at

other locations. She mentioned the Big Cleanup series of cleanup events Oct. 9 to 14. Neighborhood Coordinator Javante Scott listed a series of upcoming events.

Escamilla and Scott answered questions.

Membership Business Portion

Secretary Report

Report was approved.

Treasurer Report

Rudy Michalek noted the reports are online for inspection. Michalek spotlighted new members and explained how to apply for membership.

CNC Officer Nomination Committee

Jonson gave an overview of officers and the process of candidacy. Nominating committee members Mary Ellen Lansburg and Kathleen Agnew introduced themselves.

Future Meeting Agenda Requests

Audience offered suggestions for presentations/topics for upcoming meetings. Cheryl Acton asked about the previous CNC initiative to help residents form neighbor groups and navigate the associated paperwork. Carl Schrader said the plan was derailed but is still in the works.

Jonson adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.