

CNC November 2023 Minutes
Meeting Nov. 6 via Zoom, 33 participants

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

Speaker: Kris Koch, senior manager, events and athletics, parks and recreation
Coachman Park update

Koch shared his background working in events for Major League Baseball for the Twins and Pirates and 10 years at the city.

Koch talked about the history of the park and recent redevelopment efforts of it. The park opened June 28 with a weeklong celebration of events.

Koch said about 25,000 attended the Clearwater Celebrates America/Florida Orchestra performance and Fourth of July fireworks display.

Koch said The Green greenspace in the middle of Coachman park is larger than the entirety of the former park. Koch mentioned the park's sustainability aspects. The park created greenspace turning a large parking lot into a grassy area. There are also solar power and EV vehicle charging stations at the park.

Koch outlined the process to rent space at the park. He said Ruth Eckerd Hall runs the venue. The city gets 10 days to use the facility throughout the year. Ruth Eckerd Hall has hosted more than 20 events at The Sound since it opened.

The city has hosted community focused events in the park based on resident feedback. These include movie nights, outdoor markets and other live events (large and small).

City shares info about events on websites, social media, text and newsletter. There are more than 25,000 people signed up for updates.

Koch took questions from members.

Karen Cunningham asked about shade trees. Koch said some shade trees will grow with time. He said the more popular areas are where the 100-year old oaks and near the lake area where existing trees are.

Cheryl Acton asked about food trucks on a more permanent basis. Koch said food trucks are restricted to be there only when there are events. Koch said the plan is to bring more free events to the park to help bring people to the area.

Koch shared his contact info before leaving.

Kris.Koch@myclearwater.com, 727-439-5310

Speaker: Adam Lopatin, senior vice president, commercial lines USI Insurance Services
2024 Insurance Requirements for Condominium and Homeowner Associations

Lopatin said he believes the market is going to level out some in 2024. He said the state has experienced similar fluctuations. After Hurricane Andrew in the early 1990s, and in the early 2000s and more recently.

Lopatin said the state was rife with insurance fraud. Costs also have increased because of inflation and the costs associated to rebuild a structure.

Lopatin said some new carriers are expected to enter the market next year.

Lopatin took questions from members and shared his contact information. 727-580-8080, email adam.lopatin@usi.com

Speaker: Erika Escamilla, neighborhoods coordinator, city of Clearwater
Neighborhoods update

Escamilla shared updates from the city and upcoming events. Escamilla said the city recently hired Kelce Johnson, volunteer coordinator.

Membership business portion:

Secretary's report:

Carl Schrader asked for a motion to accept the secretary report as submitted. Rudy Michalek made the motion. Chelsea Gird seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report:

Rudy Michalek said only one of the treasurer reports was posted to the CNC website. Michalek said there was one new member, Dennis McDermott who joined last month. Schrader asked for a motion to accept both the CNC and CNC Foundation reports. Mary Ellen Lansburg made the motion, Bill Jonson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old business:

CNC Nominating committee: Mary Ellen Lansburg, committee chair

2024 officer slate:

Bill Jonson, president

Annette Pardue, vice president

Chelsea Gird, secretary

Rudy Michalek, treasurer

Lansburg asked if there were any other nominees from the coalition. Lansburg motioned to close the slate of officers by unanimous consent. Karen Cunningham seconded. Passed unanimously.

Holiday Party - Mary Ellen Lansburg, committee chair

Lansburg shared an update from the group's trip to Coachman Park as a venue. David Lillesand gave an update on renting a portion of The Sound/The View.

There was a short discussion on venue location. No decision on location was made but it will be determined soon.

New business:

Jan. 22 and 29 Candidate forum - Karen Cunningham, committee chair

Cunningham said the committee meets Thursday. Big discussion item will be if the meeting will be live or over Zoom.

Neighborhood Round Table

Marcia Powell said she is moving and that Joel and Irene Suhm will be interim president of the neighborhood association.

Teri Fitzgerald asked about road changes in her neighborhood. Because the issue is on a state road it was suggested she talk to Whit Blanton at Forward Pinellas. His email is wblanton@co.pinellas.fl.us

John, Del Oro Groves, also had a road issue.

Nancy Diaz said she and Cheryl Acton are trying to plan a 100 year celebration for the Glenwood neighborhood.

Chris Michalek gave an update on the Chart House development.

Next Meeting: Holiday Party Dec. 4

Schrader adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.