

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition – Meeting February 5, 2024

Bill Jonson – President

Annette Pardue – Vice President

Chelsea Gird - Secretary

Rudy Michalek - Treasurer

Bill called the Meeting to order at 7 pm. He asked all present members to introduce themselves, there were 31 members present.

Bill then introduced our first speaker,

Rebecca Mulder, Manager Clearwater Code Enforcement Manager,

She shared many successes of code enforcement such as a story of an elderly woman whose driveway was full of debris and potholes and not in compliance. After collaborating with her to solve the problem but she stopped communicating with them. It was a neighbor who reached out to say she was in hospice. They all got together as a community and managed to help her to get her driveway repaved and back in compliance. This is just one story of a community coming together to help in coordination with the city to help a neighborhood and neighbor out in a time of need.

She also shared that the Code Enforcement Department is now fully staffed. There are seventeen employees. 2 Administrators who manage all communications as well as Tax receipts which are needed for rental properties, there are twelve inspectors for 9 zones with 2 specialty inspectors.

They get about 300 to 400 complaints a month; they have several avenues to make sure a property complies with state and local ordinances. They cannot take a property that is homesteaded and foreclose on it, but they can foreclose on abandoned or problem properties it is a long process, and they prefer to always work with the homeowner to try and resolve things in a friendly and helpful manner.

It's highly recommended to get to know the Code Enforcement Officer in your zone, you can also get a beneficial booklet on local code ordinances that is available for free.

Our next speaker was Officer Kaye– He is a community Liaison officer for neighborhoods.

He informed us of upcoming community engagement events.

- Tuesday, Feb 6 – Cookie with a cop – countryside Chick-fil-A: 330- 530pm
- Friday, Feb 16 – Coffee with a cop – 20 Shekels: 830-1030am
- Friday, Feb 23 – Bicycle Rodeo – Ross Norton Rec: 4-6 pm
- Friday, Feb 23 – Night at the library N Greenwood Library: 5-7 pm
- Saturday, March 30 – N Greenwood Library Easter Event: 10-12 am

Speaker 3 was Samantha Moullet, Manager of the Clearwater Neighborhoods Division for Clearwater

She let us know that Neighborhood Day had been moved to March 30th to account for the new City council and Mayor being sworn in. Also, with the sustainability selected on the application you will be receiving a total of 400 dollars towards making your neighborhood day event special.

Samantha also told us about the new district Lt Commanders,

Lt. Steve Baginski is the new commander of District 2, which covers from the downtown area east to Keene Road. He replaces Lt. Steve Wannos, who has moved to another position within the department.

Lt. Chris Ziermann is the new commander of District 3, which encompasses the city east of Keene Road. He replaces Lt. John Connor, who has moved to another position within the agency.

Lt. Meg Hasty remains the commander of District 1, which covers Island Estates, Clearwater Beach, and Sand Key.

Samantha also let us know about a 0% interest rate on home loans that the city is rolling out, there are income requirements for this, but you can get up to 60K for improvements.

She reminded us of the Register your Camera Program with the Clearwater Police which is a terrific way to help the Police department in solving crimes. Go to clearwaterpolice.org/registermycamera to participate in that program.

Some Great events are coming up...

- Sea Blues Festival is coming to Coachman Park from February 23rd to February 25th
- Sugar Sand Festival is March 29th

This brought her to her next topic, which was parking, if you go to myclearwater.com/parking a map will produce all the available parking in and around Coachman Park and the beach, this a great tool to use to find easy, convenient, and often free parking.

Rudy Michalek – Gave the treasurer's Report for the CNC and CNC Foundation. These will be posted on the website along with the meeting minutes from that January Meeting. Rudy also asked any members who have not yet renewed their membership, to please send it.

Bill then asked the question of whether we should have all meetings in person or all meetings on Zoom or if we should do a mixture of both, like quarterly in-person meet-ups which would look like two Zoom and then one in person.

Bill also reminded everyone to make sure to vote in the upcoming election. The cut-off to request mail-in ballots is March 7th the cut-off to register for this election is February 20th. You can go to VOTEPINELLAS.com to register or order your mail in Ballot.

Also, there will be the city candidate forum on February 8th at 6 pm for the City Council and on Thursday, February 9th for the Mayoral Forum, this will be in person and live streaming on the city's Facebook page.

Bill Jonson then adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm.