



### Minutes for CNC Meeting April 7, 2025

- **President Jared Leone** called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm.
- He proceeded to introduce the officers of the CNC and the first guest speaker of the evening, Whit Blanton from Forward Pinellas
- **Whit Blanton** discussed what is happening to this point with the Drew Street Plan
  - Three main sections of Drew -Osceola - Myrtle, Myrtle to Keene, and Keene to 19 - not boundaries of who owns the road
  - FL DOT is doing the design and has 60% of it done by mid-May
  - 90% will be ready sometime in the fall.
  - Will have a workshop or open house of some sort to have public input to suggest changes - will notify when that will be
  - Three entities are involved - City, Forward Pinellas, and FL DOT
  - The original concept is no longer part of the project, but working with the City Council to come up with Plan B
  - Moving quickly because time is money, and the money needs to be used so that the money is not put back into another project
  - Explanation of the turn lanes, both right and left, and the streets that will have these.
  - Discussed the new track for the Pinellas Trail, but this is not set yet and the two-lane bicycle track will hopefully be included
  - Myrtle to Keene will still have 4 lanes, but some will be used for a long left turn lane on Myrtle and a right turn lane, only one through lane
  - At Cleveland and Missouri, the left turn will be eliminated to Cleveland St, right lane turns only
  - Betty Lane will be widened to 5 lanes with left turns in both directions On the south side, the sidewalks will be widened to ADA standards
  - Looking into some traffic calming devices,
    - Mid-block crossing at Crest or Lake with a raised median with a flashing beacon, pedestrian hybrid signal
    - final decision will be made by FL DOT but will not do anything opposed by the City Council and Forward Pinellas
    - This is a partnership among all entities
  - Funding
    - About 20 million dollars from the Federal fund in the DOT adopted program for one year of funding

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- 12 million city for utilities relocations
  - Construction may take a little more than this
- Highland will widen for the left turns
- East of Keene, it will stay as is, but posted speed limits will drop -
  - from 45 - 40
  - Mid-block crossing by Social Security or Belcher
  - Infrastructure will not be included.
    - Lighting - street lights
  - May see some other changes
- All Federal funds with a little bit of state funds
- Questions were asked by the members concerning the plan for Drew because this plan was brought forth about 10 years ago through the efforts of the CNC
- Forward Pinellas has 19 Board Members
  - 2 City Council Members
  - The chair is from St. Petersburg
  - Members from St. Petersburg
  - Members from Clearwater
- **Sgt. Daniel Negersmith and Lieutenant Baginski gave traffic data from July 1st - February 28, 2024, for one segment, and the second segment referred to July 1, 2024, to February 28, 2025.**
  - In the presentation, the police did a deep dive into the statistics, which showed the crash data from those time segments
  - Findings were similar from both data time segments
  - Solutions for these areas
    - Crashes within a targeted area
      - Sideswiped and angled crashes were the top
      - Not rear-ended at the top of the statistics
    - Speed cameras cannot be used as they are only in school zones
    - Speed signs
    - There was a study with rumble strips
  - Several questions were asked and answered by the officers.
- **Neighborhood Services—** Monica gave the report
  - Arbor Day Tree Giveaway is on the 26th of April from 8-1
  - City Council Town Hall Meeting is April 29, 5:30 - 7 at the Countryside Library



- Clearwater Connect is an email people can sign up to receive city information
- Other information is posted on the CNC website under Hot Topics

### **Membership Business Portion**

- **Secretary's Report** – Patrick Raftery made a motion to approve the minutes from February and March. Dennis McDermott seconded the motion
- **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Treasurer Cheryl Acton. It is posted on the CNC Website.
- **Old Business:**
  - Membership Committee - One new membership. Still working on new memberships
  - Discussion about Neighborhood Day - 15 were members of the CNC, 19 were not. Will be looking to change that from 15 to 19.
  - Code Compliance Committee - maps are updated and online. Members are Barb Fidler, Dennis McDermott, and Annette Pardue
    - Had one issue that has been resolved with just a discussion
    - Question about "Zombie Houses" - Patrick will ask about it
    - Short-term rentals - the city has a different standard about it - no way for the city to monitor all the rentals. Questions concerning compliance can be noted when there is an issue. The county had set up some guidelines.
    - Rebecca from Code Compliance will come to speak at a future meeting.
- **New Business -.Neighborhood Roundtable**
  - Responses from neighborhoods about their successes
  - Spring Break may have caused some lack of attendance -Never a perfect day
  - Late start this year due to a change in management
  - Kona Truck is always a big hit.
  - Bounce Houses need liability
  - Concern from Valencia Park about Los Lomas and speed bumps
    - Who do we contact? Javante will direct us to the Streets Division, and then a traffic study will be done. Then, if it warrants it, the speed bumps can be done.
  - Request for Scientology to come and speak at one of the meetings.
    - Garden Street project
    - Is this a neighborhood issue

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## CLEARWATER NEIGHBORHOODS COALITION

- The fluoride issue was deferred by the City Council
  - Tracey McManus was a resource for neighborhoods through the Tampa Times.
- The next Meeting will be May 5, 2025, at 7 p.m. at Clearwater Fire Training Facility, 1716 N. Becher Road. The mayor will speak about "Thinking Bigger."
- **The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm by President Leone.**

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