



CLEARWATER  
NEIGHBORHOODS  
COALITION

## **Final CNC Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2025**

### **Call to Order**

President Leone called the CNC meeting to order promptly at 7:00 PM. After introducing the officers, he turned the meeting over to Mayor Bruce Rector.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Rector thanked attendees for their involvement and shared highlights from his recent visit to Clearwater's sister city, Nagano. This partnership has lasted 65 years, with reciprocal visits every five years. The exchange program includes both adults and students. He praised the Japanese school system, noting that students clean their schools and serve lunch during the school day.

He also met with the President of Daiso, a Japanese retail chain, which plans to open a store in Countryside. He described the trip as enriching and productive.

Mayor Rector attended a program for new mayors at Harvard, followed by a three-day training at Bloomberg in New York City with 48 other mayors. Clearwater's City Manager and Assistant City Manager will attend a follow-up session soon. These programs aim to enhance city performance through diversity and innovation.

### **Community Projects and Infrastructure**

- Budget meetings will be held prior to the final hearing. Interactive tools are available on the city website.
- Courtney Campbell Walkway Overpass: Completion expected in 2026.
- Drew Street Improvements: Progressing, though not universally favored.
- Downtown Construction: Projects include the Osceola Parking Garage, PSTA Terminal (breaking ground August 22), and a Hilton Signature Hotel near the library. Temporary inconvenience is expected.

### **Code Compliance and Neighborhood Issues**

Mayor Rector emphasized resolving code compliance issues through neighborhood dialogue. Consistent enforcement across areas, especially regarding parking and neighborhood concerns, is a priority.

### **Reimagine Clearwater**

The library project aims to repurpose parts of the space for arts, culture, or other community activities.

### **City Dashboards**

New dashboards are being added to track city progress. The debris dashboard was highlighted for showing pickup locations and progress toward goals.



### Community Feedback & Initiatives

Residents discussed the possibility of Clearwater establishing a local energy company to offer more affordable rates than Duke Energy. With 30 electric providers in Florida—four of which are investor-owned and typically charge the highest rates—there's growing interest in exploring alternatives. Even if a local provider isn't feasible, the conversation could encourage Duke to renegotiate its franchise agreement and consider underground utility installations.

Dennis introduced the idea of a cooperative broadband company to address inconsistent pricing from current providers. A new company is actively installing fiber optics in the area, which may offer more reliable and competitive service options.

Glenna expressed gratitude for the city's stormwater improvements, noting that while most issues have been resolved, a few remain. She also praised the city's dashboards for providing clear and helpful updates.

Residents were reminded to monitor vegetation and drainage in neighborhood retention ponds. While the city maintains those on public property, community involvement is essential for upkeep in residential areas.

Karen Cunningham suggested creating satellite offices throughout Clearwater to decentralize city services. The idea will be presented to the council.

Trisha raised concerns about a natural spring in her neighborhood and requested city assistance, hoping for a resolution similar to Glenna's.

Mary Ellen asked whether the new Hilton Signature Hotel would affect library parking. The hotel will include parking for library visitors, and construction is set to begin soon.

Jared stated that the advisory board consolidation will be on the city council agenda this next week. He highlighted the need to review the effectiveness of advisory boards, some of which have become inactive. The city is evaluating whether the current structure—unchanged for 25 years—is still the best approach.

The role of artificial intelligence in shaping the future was also discussed. Mayor Rector emphasized the importance of thoughtful planning and encouraged residents to share feedback via written communication, assuring them of a response.

Allie confirmed that the Courtney Campbell Walkway is scheduled for completion in 2026. The PSTA terminal will break ground on August 22.

### Neighborhoods Office – Allie Chandler-Baier

There is an Adopt-a-Storm-Drain program where residents can help keep drains clear (without entering them). Del Ora Groves Neighborhood has wonderful examples of the colorful drain covers. Their office has applied for a

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council grant and is awaiting the results of their efforts.

## Membership Business

Minutes posted were for the wrong date. This has been corrected and the June minutes are now posted. Approval has been tabled until the September meeting.

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Financial reports have been posted on the website.

## Old Business

**Membership committee** reported several renewals and new memberships, bringing the total to 26 members. Edna, Annette, and Becca are new members. Members were reminded of the social time before meetings, which provides an opportunity to discuss neighborhood issues. The CNC was listed in the Strategies booklet. Planning for a neighborhood symposium is underway in collaboration with Karen Cunningham.

**Code Compliance** Patrick shared a list of new zone officers and attended the municipal code compliance board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 27. He can only comment after motions are completed. Becca raised concerns about Airbnb properties being purchased by individuals or corporations. Patrick advised her to contact Rebecca for further discussion. [Click here for the list of new zone officers.](#)

**Dashboard Committee** Bill Jonson reported that there are 13 dashboards. CRS is the group that determines FEMA flood legislation in Tallahassee. A committee was formed in June with Bill, Karen Walby, and Bryan Beckman. Bill has a one-page description of the committee's goals. It was suggested that dashboards show trends over time. [Click here for the description.](#)

## New Business

Liz Drayer met with Jared and proposed forming a city council committee to report on council meetings and share information with the community. Jared will send an email to gauge interest in joining the committee.

## Open Forum

Trisha expressed a desire to see Duke Energy replaced.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

