

NEWSLETTER

Volume 25

Issue 3

March 3rd, 2008

Next Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition Meeting

Monday—March 3rd, 2008

7:00 PM– 8:30PM

>>Salvation Army– Joy Center<<

1521 Druid Road East

The building is at the corner of Highland and Druid. You should enter at the Druid Road entrance and drive to the 2nd building on the right. We will have signs posted in the parking lot to direct you.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COALITION

The Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition has been part of the community since 1981, and its ongoing purpose is to provide a forum for neighborhood associations to voice their concerns about neighborhood issues and to use our combined resources to address those issues effectively.

CNC MISSION STATEMENT

- ◆ *to minimize the residential owner's total cost for government services*
- ◆ *to encourage equitable taxation and service costs*
- ◆ *to encourage increase in tax base through development and redevelopment of commercial areas consistent with existing infrastructure and character of the City*
- ◆ *to encourage cooperative programs between City and County that will enhance the special character of the City*
- ◆ *to encourage consistent and aggressive enforcement of City Codes*
- ◆ *to encourage improvement of water quality in Clearwater Harbor, Tampa Bay, and other water resources*
- ◆ *to encourage development of programs which enhance the visual environment of the Clearwater area*
- ◆ *to encourage programs which increase the cost-effectiveness of police, fire, and emergency medical services*
- ◆ *to encourage development of Neighborhood Watch programs*
- ◆ *to present the homeowner's point of view*
- ◆ *to sponsor "get out the vote" programs and Candidate Forums*
- ◆ *to encourage open, representative, responsive, accountable, and ef-*

CLEARWATER NEIGHBORHOODS DAY

WHEN??

SATURDAY- MARCH 15TH !!

Clearwater turns into "block party heaven" on this day that the city celebrates neighborhoods citywide.

IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
PLANNING A PARK PICNIC, BBQ,
STREET OR BLOCK PARTY??

GREAT JOB TO THOSE ALREADY PLANNING...**GET A MOVE ON** TO THOSE THAT HAVE NOT STARTED...**IT DOES NOT TAKE MUCH TO HAVE A GREAT CLEARWATER DAY!!!**

>GOOD FOOD, FUN, & NEIGHBORS.

PLEASE CALL **BECKY MELENDEZ**
@ CLEARWATER NEIGHBORHOOD
SERVICES WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

727-562-4585

P.O. Box 8204, Clearwater, FL 33758-8204

Web Page: www.clearwatercoalition.com

Email: Clearwater@newpobox.com

Minutes of February 4th, 2008 Meeting

Meeting called to order by President, Shelley Kuroghlian at 6:07 PM.

Members present: JoAnna Siskin, Skycrest; ; Ray Massieu & Ron Delp, Clearwater Beach; Norma Carlough, Windsor Park; Tom Calhoun, Coachman Ridge; Doug Williams, Northwood West; Ric Ortega, Sunset-Highland; Bill Jonson, Countryside Northridge; Herb McLachlan, Sand Key Civic; Vionette Perry & Kelly Hinshaw Knollwood Pines; Greg & Cheryl Mathis, Bayview Heights, Russell Gabel, Hillcrest; Julie Thompson, Glen Oaks and Shelley Kuroghlian, Spring Lake

Guests present John Doran, VP City Council

President's Report

Shelley Kuroghlian welcomed the new members from Glen Oaks, Hillcrest, Bayview Heights and Knollwood Pines. She explained that each of these associations qualify for a one year complimentary membership as they either have never been a member of the CNC or have not been a member for more than 3 years.

City of Clearwater Neighborhood services have three events planned for the neighborhoods. There is a City of Clearwater Informational Fair at Countryside Mall on March 12th, a Movie Under the Stars at Crest Lake Park on Friday evening, March 14th and Neighborhoods Day on Saturday, March 15th. We encourage all members to ask their neighbors to participate.

Shelley Kuroghlian met with Clearwater City Manager Bill Horne to update him on the change in officers for the CNC and the direction that we will be taking in 2008. She told him of the new coordinator structure and felt that the meeting was very positive and fruitful. We look forward to working in partnership with the City in 2008.

Shelley discussed the new sign in sheet for members and asked that they update their information so that we can create a valid distribution list. Tom Calhoun and Bill Jonsen indicated that they still are not receiving updates through the list serve. Shelley will start to send the information on a separate email to all members.

Secretary Report

Motion by Ray Massieu 2nd by Doug Williams to approve minutes as submitted. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Doug Williams filed the Annual Report for both CNC accounts. Doug asked that the membership approve expenditures of \$171.19 for a voice recorder, \$32.29 for refreshments for the January meeting. Motion made by Ray Massieu 2nd by Ron Delp. Approved. Motion made to fund \$5 per month for refreshments and \$16.24 for coffee. Motion by JoAnna Siskin 2nd by Ray Massieu. Approved. Motion to accept Treasurers report by Ray Massieu, 2nd by JoAnna Siskin. Approved

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Code Enforcement

Norma Carlough provided information to the members on how to communicate effectively with Code enforcement. There are a number of options, CITS, email and telephone. The key to resolution is continual follow-up. She expressed concern about the impact of more restrictive watering which may drive deterioration of lawns, etc. Foreclosures are creating vacant buildings and she encouraged neighbors to pay attention to people who are on the property. Boarding houses continue to be an issue that is difficult to resolve as there is no way that code enforcement can prove that the boarding issue exists. This may be an opportunity for the CNC to work with the City on an ordinance change. Russ Gabel suggested that we find a way to quantify the violations. Norma indicated that the code information is on-line but that the "blue book" issued by the city is the best overview of the areas that code enforcement covers. Overall we want to encourage members to educate their neighbors and ask that they begin to report violations on a regular basis. The most effective method of reporting is on the website for the City in the CITS system. **Action: John Doran** will provide copies of the code "blue book" to members for their neighborhoods. Vionette Perry expressed concern that there is confusion between the police and the Community Response Team as to what a police matter to resolve is and what code enforcement is. She would like to see this problem resolved. Questions were raised as to why the CRT is not more proactive. JoAnna Siskin suggested that the City may need to

take a different approach, due to budget cuts, to use police, city workers as well as the CRT to work as a team to identify and report violations. Russ Gabel, said that this type of approach is used in Boston where there are orange and green tickets issued to violators one for code another for traffic issues with violators paying fines.

One of the key objectives of the CNC this year is to work with the city to change the way we do business and to look at some ordinances in order to deal with issues that are difficult to resolve due to the way the ordinances are written.

Membership Committee

Shelley and Joanna are excited about the membership drive and the new members who attended the meeting. Shelley passed out copies of the contact list to those who were assigned to make calls and asked that they provide an update. **Action: Selected members** to update list with call results and new address information and forward to Shelley Kuroghlian

They did not attend the Neighborhood Watch meeting, as had been previously planned, due to scheduling conflicts and the fact that they would not be allowed to speak but just hand out flyers.

Parks and Recreation

Ron Delp contacted all the members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and asked that they appoint a person to attend the CNC meetings to keep us updated. Jonathan Wade, Chairman agreed to attend the February meeting. No further discussion as there were no representatives at the CNC meeting.

Discussion about the plantings on the Memorial Causeway. These are being paid for by the state and not the city. Drought resistant plants are replacing those that need watering. Members were pleased with the planting to date.

Chamber of Commerce

Doug Williams reported that the Director of the Chamber, Beth Coleman has resigned Kevin Gartland is the interim CEO. The Annual meeting was last month and there will be an event at Brighthouse Field next month.

Environment / Downtown Development

Doug Williams updated the new members on Pinellas Living Green. They are making good progress with getting vendors and sponsors for the event. He encouraged the members to have their neighbors attend.

There has been a new Downtown Development Manager appointed, Courtney Orr, who is an agent of the Community Redevelopment Agency CRA to recruit new businesses and be a liaison between the current businesses and the City.

Community Development Board

Norma Carlough is an alternate on the board. Next month the Shops at Sand Key will be on the CDB agenda.

Marine Advisory Board

Tom Calhoun had no report.

Neighborhood Input

Bill Jonson reported that there is small park, Country Hollow, in the Countryside area and asked that there be a dialogue with the City to replace the playground equipment that was removed. This is the only children's park between Curlew Road, Countryside Blvd. and US 19. **Action: Shelley Kuroghlian** to contact Bill Horne to determine who the appropriate person to provide an update to the CNC for this issue and the tables removed from Crest Lake park.

Bill Jonson asked that the City provide the CNC with an update on the status of the Traffic Calming projects. Kelly Hinshaw asked to include Park St. **Action: Shelley Kuroghlian** to contact Bill Horne to determine the appropriate person to provide this information (Paul Bertels or Ken Sides) for the March meeting.

Julie Thompson expressed concern about the removal of a full time position (Scott Ballard) from Community Relations/Crime Prevention Officer in the Community Outreach Unit. This is a serious loss to the neighborhoods. Pro-active projects such as the lighting initiative and nuisance abatement ordinance are at

risk. Members would like to express their concern to the City. **Action: Shelley Kuroghlian** to contact Bill Horne via letter to have the appropriate person address the CNC on this issue in March.

Ron Delp has a concern with “flexible standards” in Planning and Development. He feels that any deviation from the standard should be the burden of the petitioner to justify. Bill Jonson said that the problem is that the City Council needs to provide additional guidance to the CDB. Ron asked that we give thought to taking a position on this matter **Action: Bill Jonson** stated that he would look into the matter and provide his opinion on possible methods of addressing the issue.

OLD BUSSINESS

East Gateway Coalition

The action item taken in January to invite Jeff Kronschnabl and Lt. Steffens to the February meeting to discuss the code violations and police initiatives in the East Gateway has been postponed pending a meeting on February 27th of the East Gateway Coalition. Vionette Perry expressed frustration at the length of time it has taken for the violations to be resolved and the police enforcement actions to clear the neighborhood of drugs, prostitution and other crime. We will report back to the CNC as to the progress made in the scheduled meeting.

Crest Lake Park

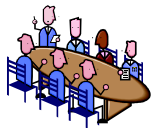
Action: Ron Delp to contact Kevin Dunbar to determine what specifically is preventing the benches around the lake to be non-compliant if they are turned to face the lake. We also need to understand if all the benches in the park need to be compliant or just a percentage.

Evaluations

Shelley Kuroghlian indicated that we will not do meeting evaluations each month but that they will be available on the table should a member wish to comment. She encouraged use of the document so we can understand what we are doing well and what needs improvement.

Joanna Siskin made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Ray Massieu. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM (25 Minutes past the Library Meeting Room closing time)

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnna Siskin, Secretary



Your VOICE is important to the Coalition.

We need to hear your concerns as well as suggestions and ideas for solutions on the issues that affect your neighborhoods.



Change in Association Officers Notification Please forward names of new officers for your association to JoAnna Siskin, CNC Secretary at siskinj@aol.com.

Please send comments, opinions, and suggestions regarding the **Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition** to P.O. Box 8204, Clearwater, FL 33758-8204 **or please contact an officer.**

2008 Officers

Shelley Kuroghlian	President	727-736-0154	Spring Lake
Ric Ortega	Vice President	727-938-2835	Sunset-Highland
JoAnna Siskin	Secretary	727-442-0096	Skycrest
Doug Williams	Treasurer	727-725-3345	Northwood West

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