

*"Your link to a better neighborhood"*

Clearwater

Neighborhoods

Coalition

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# NEWSLETTER

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Volume 30

Issue 8

November 3, 2008

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Next Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition Meeting

**Monday—November 3rd, 2008**

7:00 PM– 8:30PM

**>>Salvation Army– Joy Center<<**

1521 Druid Road East

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## 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.

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### **What does it mean to be a good neighbor?**

-Being a good neighbor means living with others in a social community called a "neighborhood". People talking in their front yards, children playing on the sidewalk, people mowing lawns, and similar activities are all part of being neighbors. People are what make a neighborhood a living community rather than just a group of buildings.

-A good neighbor is someone who is interested in the whole neighborhood. Their interest does not stop at the property line. They work with others to improve the neighborhood by serving on neighborhood groups and committees.

-A good neighbor is someone who does not bother or disturb other neighbors by misusing or neglecting their property. They do not let their home become the neighborhood eyesore by littering yard spaces with old vehicles or other hard to store items. Essentially, they make an effort to improve the neighborhood by improving their own property.

-A good neighbor is someone who respects the property of others. They do not park their car on others' lawns or in a way that blocks someone from backing out of their own driveway. They are aware of the rights of others, and they maintain a good neighborhood by not being a nuisance. Copied from "Talgov.com" the City of Tallahasee.

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Web Page: [www.clearwatercoalition.com](http://www.clearwatercoalition.com)

Email: [Clearwater@newpobox.com](mailto:Clearwater@newpobox.com)

## Meeting Minutes October 6, 2008

Meeting called to order by President, Shelley Kuroghlian at 7:05 PM.

Members present: Ron Delp, Clearwater Beach; JoAnna Siskin, Skycrest; Shelley Kuroghlian, Spring Lake; Ric Ortega, Sunset-Highland Julie Thompson, Glen Oaks; Larry Floyd, Coachman Ridge and; Doug Williams, Northwood West & Ron Wright, Tropic Hills; Russ Gael, Hillcrest; Gina McPherson, Island Way; Marilyn Kagan, Coachman Ridge; Isay Gulley, Country Club Estates, Bill Jonson, Countryside Northridge. Guests present: Dan Bates, DEVT Neighborhood Services.

### President's Report

No Report

### Secretary Report

Minutes amended to include Norma Carlough as attendee at September meeting.

Motion by Doug Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ Gabel to approve minutes as amended. Approved. Shelley Kuroghlian again asked that members please print copies of the agenda each month from the website to save printing costs.

### Treasurer's Report

Doug Williams presented the balance sheet and updated the members on new payments:

Payment made to cover charges for post office box.

	CNC	Foundation
Balance	\$1,841.66	\$697.69

Shelley encouraged all members, who haven't done so, to send their dues for 2008 and asked that all dues for 2009 be paid by March. She asked that each member work with their respective organizations to insure that funding be appropriated and checks cut. Motion to accept Treasurers report by Norma Carlough 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Delp. Approved.

### *SPEAKER*

Dan Bates Manager Community Response Team, provided the group with an update on changes that were a result of a meeting with CNC representatives and various city staff (IT & Neighborhood Services and CRT) to discuss recommendations made in a report issued by the CNC regarding the code enforcement process. Dan reviewed the process to access CTRACS and indicated that the following changes were made to the program as recommended by the CNC:

- Citizens Guide has been added to the site for user reference
- Required fields for entry are now highlighted in red – name is not required
- Option to upload a photograph ( up to 3 images total of 3MB) of the problem has been added along with 5000 character description. ( Shelley K recommended that some info on how to reduce size of image to fit within 3MB requirement be added to the site as most casual users don't know how to do this)
- Dan showed the ID & PIN # that needs to be retained by the user to check the status. Shelley K recommended that a message be displayed to user once log has been successfully completed indicating "STOP" you must save this ID & PIN # to check the status of your request ". Ric Ortega indicated that you can't go back and upload a photo once a complaint has been logged. Dan took action to see if this can be added. If a person loses their ID and PIN # they can call Dan who can get back in to find the status by complaint address in another system

Dan encouraged members to use the system and get back to him with any problems or their comments on ease of use. Representatives are available to attend neighborhood meetings to demonstrate the site, if needed. Russ Gable suggested that a demonstration be placed on the site to help residents understand how to use the system. Shelley K suggested that a direct link on the homepage of the City of Clearwater website for "code violations" be available to make access more user friendly.

Marilyn Kagan asked what steps a person, who logged a complaint can take when they are not satisfied with the response. Dan indicated that this is an issue with the code itself, not the enforcement process. Russ Gabel asked if there is a mechanism to capture data for top complaints that are not covered by the code to bring the problem forward to the City Attorney to get the code changed. Dan indicated that the resident would have to bring that forward to the City Council. Russ Gabel indicated that there should be a closed loop process to cycle

these back within the city. Ron Delp made a motion that the CNC analyze the top issues for code change and take this problem forward to the appropriate city agency. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Jonson. Approved. Ron Wright, Bill Jonson and Ron Delp volunteered to serve on the committee. Ron Wright asked that members identify issues that the CNC could work and send them forward to the executive committee.

Norma Carlough questioned why language from police regarding motorized scooters is not included in the current Citizens Guide. JoAnna Siskin asked why language on the trash barrels is no longer included. Motion made by Bill Jonson that CNC recommend that in areas pertaining to police codes and enforcement that language be combined in the Citizens Guide. 2<sup>nd</sup> by JoAnna Siskin. Approved unanimously. Dan agreed to check the prior electronic file for the Guide to add the trash barrel language.

The membership appreciated the work done by the city in partnership with the CNC to improve the CTRACS website and looks forward to continuing this effort in the future.

### ***COORDINATOR REPORTS***

#### **Community Development Board**

No Report

#### **Membership Committee**

JoAnna is compiling an accurate list of neighborhood associations once this is completed, each member will be asked to take a portion of the list and contact. Shelley encouraged the members to tell others about the CNC and invite them to attend our meetings. She indicated that new people will help to energize our group. Ron Delp asked if we have a pamphlet that our members can use when speaking about our organization. Shelley said that we need to have an updated fact sheet and asked that members volunteer to take on this task.

#### **Parks and Recreation**

Isay Gully indicated that the recreation centers, with the exception of the Long Center have lost hours.

#### **Chamber of Commerce**

Doug Williams reported that there will be a Meet the Candidates at the Belleview Biltmore on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will also be a retreat at the end of the month.

#### **Environment / Downtown Development**

Grant award program for the downtown area to improve lighting is available to businesses. There is an effort underway to bring more people into the downtown area with Friday night concerts and an art show associated with the Clearwater Jazz festival. Shelly asked that members communicate this to their residents and explore the changes in the downtown and East Gateway.

JoAnna Siskin recommended that the CNC hold our December meeting at the Greektown Grille as the Salvation Army Joy Center is not available. The group agreed unanimously to hold a CNC Holiday dinner meeting at that location. Shelley will work with the restaurant to get a menu and present the options at the next meeting. PLEASE PUT THIS DATE (12-01-08) ON YOUR CALENDAR!!!!

### ***NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT***

Ron Wright asked for advice in how to prevent solicitors from trespassing and distributing materials in his neighborhood (Tropic Hills). Shelley K suggested that he contact the actual restaurant or business advertised to direct the distributor to stop the solicitation.

### ***OLD BUSINESS***

The city has established an East Gateway Citizen Advisory Task Force. JoAnna Siskin will represent the abutting neighborhoods and the CNC. This group bi-monthly. Dawn Dixon from Achevia is the Chairman and Mr. Levy from the T-Shirt Factory is the Vice-Chairman. There are 11 members and 9 alternates. The police did a reverse prostitution sting and made 15 arrests in the Gateway. 9 vehicles were impounded. Shelley encouraged the CNC to support efforts in the East Gateway as current members are negatively impacted by the activities in that area that spill over into other neighborhoods. Other members felt that the action should come from within the neighborhood. Isay Gully described initiatives taken in other areas of Clearwater to help neighborhoods that did not have a strong voice due to lack of organization. She identified work done by the Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc to inventory these neighborhoods to

help target them for revitalization. Members discussed this process and a motion was made by JoAnna Siskin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Norma Carlough to ask Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services to target the East Gateway and work with the City and the CNC to identify possible services to meet the neighborhood needs for revitalization. Approved.

Doug Williams made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julie Thompson. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnna Siskin, Secretary

### Foster Grant Ironman World Championship 70.3

**Location:** Pier 60, Clearwater and Pinellas County

**Time:** 6:45 AM - 4:00 PM

**Contact:** (727) 562-INFO or visit [www.myclearwater.com/ironman](http://www.myclearwater.com/ironman)

**Description:** More than 1,700 athletes will compete in the Foster Grant Ironman World Championship 70.3 which consists of a 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike and a 13.1-mile run. The 70.3 series showcases half the distance of the signature Ironman championship event that takes place in Kona, Hawaii each year. The competition will start and finish near Pier 60 on Clearwater Beach.

**NOTE: Be aware of your travel plans on this day and the race course path!!!**



*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](mailto: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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