

Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA)
Minutes and Addenda for Meeting of Feb. 2, 2015

Present: Kristen Noakes-Fry, President; Nancy Warner, Membership Director; Genine Thompson, Treasurer; Susan O’Gara, Secretary; Phil Trocchia, Immediate Past President; Sean Suits, First Vice President, Business Relations; Thomas Paterek, Second Vice President, Programs; Sarah Suits, Social Media Editor; Karri Morrison, Newsletter Editor; Greg Fallon, alternate Secretary, Member-at-Large; Jim Tomlinson, Historian; Darden Rice, City Council Member; Officer Ray Merritt, Community Service Officer; numerous neighbors (see sign in sheet).

Absent: Maureen Camphire, Book Club Representative; Steve Hamsness, Web Editor; Traer Price, Newsletter Layout; Joe Poltorak, Halloween Party; Elisabeth Nevins Caswell, Home of the Month; Trip Saunders, Newsletter Delivery; Greg Holden, Past President.

Announcements: The meeting was opened at 7 pm by President Kristen Noakes-Fry. She announced that she was forming a new & improved traffic committee for the entire neighborhood to address speeding, parking, and safety issues. The goal is to get concerned people together & let leadership emerge to address these issues, esp. as the opening of Trader Joe’s will bring in more traffic to our neighborhood.

Minutes from Last Meeting: Secretary Susan O’Gara verbally presented Greg Fallon’s January minutes. Nancy Warner moved to correct the name Tonya to Chania awarded HoTM for next month. Phil Trocchia moved to approve minutes as read. Anne Alexander seconded.

Treasurer’s Report: Genine Thompson verbally presented the Treasurer’s report. The balance as of January 31, 2015 is \$6,205.45. Anne Alexander moved to accept and Phil Trocchia seconded.

Guest Speaker: Kristen introduced Mike Connors, Public Works Administrator, who heads the Pier selection committee & Kristin Brett, Pier Communications Coordinator, City of St Petersburg. Mike & Kristin commented on the value of having our meetings in our local Church. He introduced the presentation on the new pier with the failed attempt last August to select a new pier with the vote to defeat the Lens project and on how the process is different this time. Some of the differences include:

- Mayor Kriseman wanted a whole new process to get buy-in process by stakeholders
- 7 teams now shortlisted before 3 preferred are selected
- 46 million budget
- More rigid adherence to Desired Pier Functions

Available to remodel or re-purpose inverted Pyramid Bldg
 No more repair techniques available for approach
 Public Survey (non binding vote) to pick 3 preferred concepts
 Unique concept selection process: diverse members, not just city members

Mike presented a slide show on the seven designs now being considered.

Some questions and comments following the presentation:

Would height of some designs interfere with flight path to Alfred Whitted
 Deal killer with excessive permitting
 Public survey and committee will work together
 Also look at subsidies & expenses
 Scansca works with A/E team-must be buildable within time and budget
 Previous pier task force looked at piers from all over world and their purpose

Contractor has been chosen already and is looking at 7 designs and whether over budget.
 Construction will be late 2016 through Spring 2018

The community can be a part of the new process of selecting our city's new Pier. We can visit www.NewStPetePier.com to review the on-going process and see the design concepts. There will also be presentations at the Coliseum at 9 AM Feb 11 and 12. We can also participate in the public survey online at www.NewCityPier.com Feb 23-March 6.

Community Service Officer Report by Officer Ray Merritt:

He stated "No news is good news."

Since last meeting only 1 commercial burglary -Papa Johns
 One residential burglary involving tools from garage
 95% of auto burglaries are to unlocked vehicles usually at night
 Most residential burglaries in daytime

He addressed Trader Joe's opening:

2 police officers will be present per day each weekend first 2 weeks, possibly longer
 Public street is public and they can't ticket cars
 It will get better in a month

MLK Business District- Officer Merritt encouraged them to reach out to neighborhoods

Question about ticketing for cars parked wrong way: He said he can come on bike and ticket wrong way parking, but suggested we warn our neighborhood residents for a couple of months before enforcement of tickets for wrong way parking.

When asked about no parking on one side of street, he said that getting the no parking signs up took only 3 days, but it took a month to get them down.

The topic then changed to problems with the J Wags Bar on 4th St. N. He said that he will go by to talk to them. He can refer night officers to monitor the bar to ensure neighborhood is protected because drunks are disorderly and bother neighbors. He suggested that individuals can send Kristen an email if a problem and she will follow up for you. He clarified that night time offences should be referred to night officers not to the daytime Community Service Officers.

Darden Rice, City Council Member, also added that this owner is opening more J Wags bars and if he doesn't handle this bar in keeping with neighborhood peace, he shouldn't build more. She encouraged us to be sure and report problems every time they occur. Officer Merritt gave his work cell number: 742-4018

Officer Merritt also stressed that lighting in neighborhood is very important in fighting crime. Maybe we should reevaluate our lighting and look at tree trimming.

Also he stressed calling non emergency phone numbers if not an emergency whenever there is a problem occurrence.

Traffic Committee: Kerri gave a quick update on Trader Joe's Traffic.

Discussed parking restrictions for first month. Very concerned.

Illegal to implement residential parking restrictions for short time period.

No *No Parking* signs.

Will implement parking plan posted on website for first 2 weeks and can extend if additional need for it.

At 27th and 28th, *Drive Slow* signs will go up at MLK.

Additional police just on weekends.

First Vice President Report: Sean Suits reported that St. Peters Bark had a soft opening. They are going well and advertising in CHNA Newsletter.

Second Vice President Report: Thomas Paterek stated that we had an "incredible party of the century" at Melting Pot. There was a great turnout which shows passion about our neighborhood. Kristen commented on how good it was and that the management had to move us to another room. There was lots of sharing between neighbors. Food was great, and she thanked Thomas for coordinating the Melting Pot event.

Next Porch Party is at Nancy Way's home located at 526 25th Ave N., Sat., Feb. 21, 7-9 PM.

CHNA Neighborhood Garage Sale is March 21

Other upcoming events in Newsletter & website: March porch party , Easter Egg hunt, Sunken Gardens Night Out with Mayor, Book Club.

Membership Report: Presented by Nancy Warner

92 members but still lots of non-renewals

Less than 25% of homes even with non-renewals

Any resident, even if renting an apt, is qualified to join

Newsletter report: Karri stated that the Newsletter deadline is now 15th of month.

Advertising has covered 95 % of newsletter expenses

Karri asked when curb recycling would begin for entire neighborhood. Darden said this summer, but we would be getting information later.

Social Media Report: Sean reported for Sarah. Starting to push out thru FB and the website.

Book Club: Kristen presented. Next meeting is February 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm, at Kristen's house. The book to be discussed is *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline.

Other Old and New Business:

Thomas Paterek suggested murals as a possible way to improve businesses bordering our neighborhood to bring a sense of beauty. Possibly consider commissioning an artist to paint a mural to create energy and promote culture and relevance to our area as well as being a proactive way to approach businesses to improve their image. Others joined in as a good idea. Creative Loafing has article about murals. We have some amazing local talent available to commission. He offered to bring examples of murals to next meeting

By laws Committee: Take a look at job descriptions. If changes are in order, send to Phil.

Greg Fallon motioned to adjourn. Karri seconded. The meeting ended at 8:45 PM.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 2nd, 2015 at The Church of the Beatitudes.

Addendum 1:

Based on research by Genine, the Board was asked to approve a process for CHNA to apply to be a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation. In a special email vote held February 8 through February 9, 2015; the voting members of the Board unanimously approved the following actions:

1. To amend the State of Florida articles of incorporation to add the language as listed below to Article III, Purpose(s):

Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association, Inc.
Amendment – Addition to Article III, Purpose(s)

The organization is organized exclusively for charitable purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. The specific purpose for this nonprofit corporation is organized is as follows:

1. To unite the tax-paying property owners, business owners, and residents within the community hereinafter described; to facilitate the cooperation, coordination, and goodwill of residents and property owners within said area; and to protect and promote their common interests.
2. To advance development and economic growth of our community and to support and urge all improvements required throughout the community.
3. To promote pride of ownership in the community.
4. To stay informed of issues that impact our community or members, act as a liaison, and also act as a grass roots organization for issues that are relevant between local government and CHNA residents.

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes described in section 501(c)(3). No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propagand, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

All reference to section of the Internal Revenue Code shall include such section as of the date hereof and the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

2. To submit an application for recognition of exemption under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code after the amendment to the article of incorporation is complete.
3. The expenditure of funds for the State of Florida and IRS user fees required at time of such applications.

Addendum 2:

Feb. 15, 2015, the Board approved a motion to request that the City post "No Parking" signs on the West side of 5th St. N. because of parking on both sides made the street nearly impassable in some areas, and an emergency vehicle would not have been able to get through. (Because no there were no existing restrictions on the books, the City could not act without a written request

from the association.) Mike Frederick subsequently issued a work order for the signs to be put in place.

Feb. 20, 2015, the Board approved a motion to request that the City post "No Trucks" signs on MLK at the entrances to the avenues to reinforce the message that large tractor trailer trucks adhere to the laws regarding truck routes and refrain from taking shortcuts through the neighborhood to get back and forth between 4th St. N. and MLK. Mike Frederick subsequently issued a work order for the signs to be put in place.

Respectfully submitted by Susan O'Gara, Secretary