

CHNA Neighborhood Meeting
March 7, 2016 at Church of the Beatitudes

6:30 pm refreshments

Members and Visitors Present:

Officers: Thomas Paterek, Sarah Suits, Greg Fallon, Susan O’Gara, Louise Barrett, Amy Kelso, Karri Morrison

Visitors: Officer Merritt & Sergeant Hubble, Peter Belmont of St. Petersburg Preservation, and Jack Spinrad of Magnolia Heights. 22 people signed in.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President Thomas Paterek. He announced Amy Kelso as “Member of the Month.” She became a quasi-board member before physically locating here. Thomas attended a district meeting for neighborhood associations, and said that we are touted as one of the best in St. Petersburg- how active we are and involved.

Louise Barrett (Treasurer) presented the Treasurer’s Report.

Balance as of December 31, 2015 was \$5,991.26

Balance as of February 29, 2016 was \$6,848.01

Sarah Suits moved to accept and Anne Alexander seconded.

Accepted unanimously as presented.

Susan O’Gara (Secretary) summarized the January 4, 2016

Neighborhood Meeting minutes which will be posted in full on the CHNA website. Amy Kelso moved to accept and Jim

Tomlinson seconded. Accepted unanimously as summarized.

Officer Ray Merritt introduced new Sergeant Terri Hubble.

1 residential bicycle burglary

2 vehicle burglaries (one apprehended)

Saturday night on the other side of 30th Avenue North

11 vehicles were vandalized

Questions and Discussion with Officer Merritt:

Sarah Suits reported Jason Jensen posted photos on nextdoor.com of a man attempting to break into cars.

Eagle eye site is where you can register exterior cameras for police to monitor suspicious activity.

Pat Wood reported her license plate stolen.

Officer Merritt said watch out for middle school and high school kids on break.

Neighborhood Watch requires background check and training and Block Captains.

893-7780 best way to report non-emergency situations.

Traffic is number 1 complaint citywide.

Call non-emergency when see someone driving recklessly.

Presentation from Peter Belmont of St. Petersburg Preservation, introduced by Thomas Paterek.

Started in late 70's.

Education, celebration and advocacy.

Movies and Music in the Park Thursday evenings in May and October.

October – April Walking Tours.

Evening Tours in summer.

On 3rd Saturdays of the month tours visit Historic Neighborhoods.

Advocacy arm of preservation and go to City Council.

Also have Porch Parties.

How do we keep our neighborhood special?

“Sense of Place” buzz word. You lose this special feeling piece by piece.

Another boom era downtown and in our neighborhoods.

Tear downs everywhere now.

Our neighborhood is zoned as a Traditional Neighborhood “NT.”

Zoning is about use. Set back, overall height is included. Look at our character and what is allowed and not allowed in Historic Districts. There are only three truly Historic Districts in St. Petersburg and these are small: Roser Park, Granada Terrace, Lang's Bungalow Court (13 units only). Historic district rules only involve exterior of home. City is trying to make the process as simple as possible. Normal home repair and maintenance not included in process of review.

Designated district neighborhoods tend to maintain values better. Neighborhood buy-in requires majority of homeowners have to indicate support by returning the ballot before city

considers their district. Public hearings, etc. required.

Jim Tomlinson asked, "Is Historic Designation binding to entire area?"

Yes.

We have a neighborhood plan but it is not binding.

Brandy Stark hopes to do a Historic Walk/Tour of our neighborhood in the Fall of 2016. Hopefully park at 1920's Church of the Beatitudes. Would like to show progression of neighborhood. She would need a team to help out.

Jim Tomlinson reported that in 2002 & 2008 members of our neighborhood researched the history of our neighborhood and many of the homes. There has been a book printed out with 2 dozen homes and significance of buildings, 6 original Spanish land owners and plotted neighborhood. The published books are now missing. Jim has information to pass to Brandy.

Board Member & Committee Chair Announcements:

First VP – Business Relations

Sarah Suits has taken over email and needs help with website. We are looking for support for our website. \$50 month to maintain website unless we find a neighborhood volunteer. Asked for referrals to maintain website.

Second VP – Programs

Greg Fallon said last Saturday's Porch Party at Bebe and Chio Ocano's was a great success and well attended.

Remember to Vote on March 15th

Easter Egg hunt Saturday, March 19th

Book Club March 22nd

Neighborhood Garage Sale April 9th

Trying to get a business to host a Porch Party

Need April Porch Party host

Pig roast May 14th porch party

Night with Mayor possibly mid-May

Membership:

Amy Kelso reported 119 paid members (amended to 117 ½ on March 8) and PayPal option of automatic renewal.

Google Map of neighborhood for Garage Sale April 9th

Newsletter Editor:

Karri requested articles and information to share.

Committee Chairs:

Susan O’Gara, a member of the Crescent Heights Outreach, reported that the *Art and Cultural Fair* was a success and sign-up for interest groups is on-going.

General Announcements:

Thomas Paterek presented concerns over a Special Site Exemption - St Pete Self Storage is looking to convert their parking lot to residential opportunity or commercial.

They do not appear to be transparent as to their intentions.

Jim Tomlinson is opposed to their request to allow tractor trailer on parking lot because it is zoned residential now. They want variance to allow semi-tractor trailer. The fear is that the property, which presently has 115 units of storage, will become commercial. We want more transparency and must be aware of intrusion of more commercial zonings into our neighborhood.

Jack Spinrad, President of Magnolia Heights Neighborhood Association, attended tonight because of this issue. His neighborhood is peripheral to our neighborhood.

Median at 26th & 4th was discussed. Concern via Brooke Beeler.

Mural community project was proposed by Thomas Paterek for our neighborhood. We want to address beautification. Opportunity to grow our membership base. Max \$20,000 grant is available for neighborhood associations for murals.

We get everyone involved in choosing the artist and art. It is also an opportunity to support local businesses and an opportunity for us to leave a legacy. We’d form a committee and get artists to present portfolios of their work. We’d choose location/s of business/s we want to support. We could then invite everyone to attend the “Reveal”

followed by a neighborhood cleanup. Thomas volunteered to write the grant.

Susan O’Gara moved, Sarah Suits seconded a motion to pursue a Mural Community Project. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm by Thomas Paterek.

Respectfully submitted by Susan O’Gara, Secretary of CHNA