

**CHNA Special Neighborhood Meeting Minutes:
Landmark Designation Application for Church Facility
February 12, 2018 | 7:00 PM | 780 25th Ave N**

The meeting had been announced via email, Facebook, CHNA website and signs around the neighborhood. The meeting was called to discuss if CHNA, in partnership with the Saint Petersburg Preservation Inc. (Preserve the “Burg”), will submit a joint Landmark Designation application for the current Church of the Beatitudes facility on 2812 8th Street North.

Originally built in 1928, the condition of the building and its historical significance has caused many residents to question if the property should be deemed historical by the St. Petersburg City Council. Submitting a Landmark Designation application will prevent a demolition permit from being issued by the City while the historical significance of the building is considered.

CHNA bylaws contain special rules for obtaining a quorum and also for voting when a Special Meeting is called. All in attendance at this special meeting will be welcome to voice an opinion; however, only current due-paying members of CHNA will have their votes counted and officially recorded.

Refreshments were served at 6:30 pm

Board Members Present: Jennifer Wright, Susan O’Gara, Angie Conner, Brandy Stark

54 voting members were present plus 2 visitors.

Meeting was called to order by Jen Wright at 7:04 pm.

First special meeting in memory. Quorum met.

President Jennifer Wright explained situation with demolition of the Church. At first there seemed to be no other options but to temporarily block the demolition by applying for Local Landmark Designation.

Special Board meeting was held to discuss what we could do and how to file for Local Landmark Designation for the sanctuary but we needed the consensus of the neighborhood.

CHNA Board met with the Church of Beatitudes Board and then with the Church and the Developer, Jason Sanchez.

We want to work cooperatively with developer and Church.

Another developer would develop sanctuary into a home. Jason Sanchez is willing to meet with him.

Filing slows down the process of demolition. Developer couldn't apply to demolish, and it would give us more time to save the historic Church. The application is ready to go if and when we decide to file with the city.

Jim Tomlinson moved: **If the Cooperative Process between CHNA, the Church Board and the Developer Is no longer viable, CHNA will apply for Local Historic Landmark Designation for the Sanctuary at 2812 8th St. North.** Gail Stark seconded.

Discussion:

We are involved in cooperative process now with Church and Jason Sanchez (JMS).

Some members wanted the application submitted now, not later. Many felt the builder could go back on his word.

At the CHNA meeting with Builder and the Church, he assured us he wouldn't go back on his word. JMS is redeveloping the four plots.

Trouble with word "IF" in motion.

Emily Elwyn from Preserve the Burg was present. She said you can file the application and withdraw it. It is a "scary" process but gives us input in the process. We now have cooperative process going on.

First step is to get authorization for Board to file. This is obtained when motion is passed.

The time frame for the City Council to declare it a landmark might be May. City Council takes neighborhood involvement seriously.

We have no option if we don't do anything. No bargaining leverage if we do nothing with the application.

Not currently a time line. Premature to file now. Others say that filing would protect us. We need some leeway. Merit to continue cooperative process.

Right now the builder is willing to negotiate and first build 2 houses on present parking lot. Jennifer Wright will reach out to builder to get something in writing from him.

Voting took place and the motion passed. Vote: 4 nays, 40 yays.

Discussion Continued:

CHNA should apply now for Local Historic Landmark Designation for the Sanctuary regardless of what happens

Kathi Ward moved "CHNA Board should file Immediately." The motion died because no second.

Lisa Jackson moved and Kathi Ward seconded the following motion: **CHNA will allow developer until February 20th deadline to put in writing that they will not file for a demolition permit for the Church of the Beatitudes. If developer fails to do so, CHNA Board will file application for Local Historic Designation immediately.** The motion failed. Vote: 10 yays, 20 nays.

At the end of the meeting, it was suggested to "Heart Bomb" the Church following the CHNA Play-Out Event, February 24th.

Jennifer Wright adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan O'Gara, Secretary CHNA