

**THAN**  
**TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS**  
**ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR 2007**

Our meetings are held at Union Station unless otherwise indicated.

The officers for 2007 were

	January – June	July - December
President:	Bill Duval	Wofford Johnson
Vice President:	Wofford Johnson	Randy Baron
Treasurer:	John Weiss	Bill Duval
Secretary:	Fredric Zerla	Fredric Zerla

As the year began, the Treasury contained \$7443.24. The balance at the last regular meeting in November was \$8522.42.

This report does not contain all of THAN's activities through the year, only those the Secretary considered representative of THAN's mission.

A major issue at the January Meeting was zoning. "Although THAN fought successfully to eliminate the 80% Rule, it appears many re-zonings are being approved by City Council that may put neighborhoods in a worse situation than would have occurred under the old 80% Rule. Currently many properties are being re-zoned from RS 60 or RS 50 to Plan Developments (PD's). Under PD Zoning, standard set backs and elevation restrictions can be petitioned to be varied, so we must be vigilant." On another issue, our guest, Councilman John Dingfelder, "stated that the Transportation Concurrency Exemption Act, which forbids consideration of traffic concerns when new developments are proposed in the city, is a real problem. He wants it reviewed this year."

Gloria Moreda, Land Development Coordinator, was our guest at our February Meeting. She told that Council requested Land Development to review the rigid Right-of-Way-Encroachments section of the zoning code. Such encroachments are forbidden by the code even though some may be beneficial to the neighborhood. At this meeting also, Margaret Vizzi, Chair of THAN's Zoning Committee, reported that her committee had met with Cathy Coyle concerning the proposed changes to Chapter 27, the Zoning Code. She enumerated the many items discussed and concluded by urging THAN members to support these changes strongly.

The Sidewalk Issue was a major topic of discussion at the March Meeting. Gary C. Brown, President of Sterling Bay Homes, and Clifford D. Fernandez, President of Dolphin Homes, told problems builders have in complying with the ordinance. Melanie Higgins told that the city for a grant from the State Department of Agriculture to develop a Master Plan for the Urban Forest. THAN supports the city's efforts as well as that of the Tampa Federation of Garden Circles in its grant application to establish a "Shade Tree Advisory Commission", an advocacy group to support an increase in the urban tree canopy.

The April Meeting was more conversational than parliamentary. Margaret Vizzi kept us informed of the progress of the changes to Chapter 27, The Zoning Code, as they progressed through the system. Otherwise, the members discussed issues of a local character.

The May Meeting was held at the Loretta Ingrahm Center in West Tampa to provide space for our guests, all seven members of City Council, and the larger than ordinary number of members who attended. A major topic of conversation with the council members was the impact the budget-cuts would have on the city and, especially, on neighborhoods. Several other issues were discussed, mostly involving the relations between developers and neighborhood groups. Aside from the conversation with council members, Margaret Vizzi told that a recent court ruling mandated a change in how Wet Zoning petitions are handled. Currently they are under Chapter 3, Alcoholic Beverages, but the ruling has them being

moved to Chapter 27, the Zoning Code. She and Cathy Coyle have been discussing how this move might be done to benefit neighborhoods.

At the June Meeting, Cathy Coyle, Zoning Director, and Rebecca Kert of the Legal Department, discussed the Wet Zoning petition process as well as the changes to Chapter 27, the Zoning Code.

As July is our month off, we met next in August. Our guest was Julia Cole, Asst. City Attorney, who specializes in Land Development (Zoning) issues. She discussed the legal implications of the Zoning process. "She explained to our members how to present a case on a zoning issue to Council so that it meets legal requirements." On August 15 the THAN officers met with Mayor Iorio for a long discussion of the impact on neighborhoods of the budget cuts.

The September Meeting was held at the Community Center in Cyrus Greene Park in Central Tampa to accommodate the audience for Mayor Pam Iorio's visit. She discussed the \$20,000,000 city budget cutback and said her first priorities of protection are the Police and Fire Departments. Unfortunately, Parks & Recreation took the brunt of the hits. She told of her concerns about Tampa's aging water and sewage pipes. Many other issues were discussed in an open conversation with the mayor.

The theme of the October Meeting was "Celebrate Your Neighborhoods" as Lorena Rivas and Carla Jackson of the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations discussed ideas of organization and fund raising. Our guest speaker was Martin Shelby, City Council Attorney, who discussed Council's efforts to make its meetings more convenient for citizens.

Our November Meeting was the last formal meeting of the year because the December Meeting is pre-empted by the Mayor's Holiday Party. Our first guest was Jim Pickney, Division Manager, Clean City Division, who announced that Clean City Day in 2008 is on March 29. He asked for volunteers in this clean-up effort. Our second guests were Michele Ogilvie and Terry Cullen of the Hillsborough Planning Commission who reported that the Tampa Comprehensive Plan update is nearing completion. They discussed how the input of citizens and neighborhoods is still being sought. The draft will be ready by January 2008. The controversial Kinder Morgan Jet Fuel Pipeline was discussed. In a motion, THAN expressed to the Mayor and the Council its concern about the impact the construction of this pipeline will have on neighborhoods. President Wofford Johnson reported on the meeting of THAN's officers and administrative liaison with Mayor Iorio that afternoon. Many issues important to neighborhoods were discussed

THAN's main function is to investigate issues of concern to neighborhoods and to share its findings with its members. Because it represents so many neighborhoods, it has developed a good working relationship with the city administration.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary