

THAN
TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2008
HELD AT UNION STATION

The members and guests present are listed on the attendance roster.

1. President Wofford Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He asked for a moment of silence to reflect on our mission. He then asked that we pledge allegiance to the flag.
2. He asked the members and guests present to introduce themselves.
3. Councilman John Dingfelder was our guest. He discussed two major issues.
 - A. Campaign Finance Reform. He contended that spending in elections to city council is getting out of hand. He proposed an amendment to the City Charter with the following provisions.
 - i. Campaign contributions to candidates for the three City Council seats-at-large be lowered from the present \$500 to \$200 per contributor, per election.
 - ii. Campaign contributions to candidates for the four City Council district seats be lowered from the present \$500 to \$100 per contributor, per election.
 - iii. The contributors will be restricted to individuals, (i.e., natural persons) only. Corporations and other business entities would be prohibited from contributing.
 - iv. The last period campaign treasurer's report for city council candidates must be hand-delivered to the Supervisor of Elections Office by 5:00 p.m. on the sixth day prior to the election.
 - v. He is looking into the legality of an amendment to provide for the elimination of soft (PAC) money for city council races. At least, PAC's involved in city council races should be required to provide improved and more timely reports of donor contributions and expenditures.
 - vi. He is hosting an OPEN DISCUSSION on this issue at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 27, at the Kate Jackson Center in Hyde Park, 821 S. Rome Avenue.
 - B. The Green Building Ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to encourage developers to build environmentally friendly (green) projects. Discussion centered on the incentives given developers to comply. The density issue and the expenditure from the City's General Fund were both questioned. Councilman Dingfelder explained that density would increase because developers are encouraged to build smaller homes with less lawn space in areas that do not use reclaimed water. He said that the zoning administrator would approve these projects only if they were not deemed detrimental to the integrity of the neighborhood. He did say that he would limit the density requirement to apply only to certain areas. We reiterated our concerns about increased density and reduction of fees that the taxpayers would have to make up. These include reductions of hook-up fees for water and sewage, a reduction in the storm water fee and the monetary incentives from the General Fund.

4. Fredric Zerla gave the Secretary's Report. The Minutes of the January Meeting were approved as presented.
5. Bill Duvall gave the Treasurer's Report. We began January with \$8069.40 in the treasury. After paying expenses of \$17.63, the balance is \$8051.77.
6. Lorena Rivas reported for the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations.
 - A. *Paint-Your-Heart-Out, Tampa* still needs houses to paint. We need only provided names and addresses, they will ascertain that a house is eligible. Please inform the occupants that they are being considered.
 - B. The Official Neighborhood Registry Update request will be ready soon. Watch for it in the mail and please respond quickly.
 - C. Communications. Please inform the Office when you make requests of other city departments. Please courtesy copy the Office on letters and e-mails.
 - D. Neighborhood Mini-Grant checks still await pick-up at the Office.
 - E. March 8th is the date for the WALK WITH THE MAYOR at Al Lopez (Horizon) Park. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. with the WALK beginning at 7:30. Free health screening and a free T-shirt for participants.
 - F. March 12, Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m. at the Tampa Convention Center, the MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS.
 - G. March 19, Wednesday, from 6:00 till 8:00 p.m. at Clark Elementary School in the West Meadows subdivision of New Tampa (19002 Wood Sage Drive), the MAYOR'S FIRST TOWN HALL MEETING of the year. She will present her State of the City Address.
 - H. The February through June Clean Sweep Schedule has been published.
7. Margaret Vizzi reported for the Zoning Committee that Council will hear the First Reading of the changes to Chapter 27, the Zoning Code, tomorrow (February 14). THAN has requested that crematoriums be set back 500 feet from residences, not just historic districts. She also expressed concern regarding S1 Hearings (only administrative approval, no City Council hearing) for Wet Zoning Petitions. Desiree Valdes reported that her neighborhood was surprised to discover that the purposed changes require a 30 foot set back for riverfront property from Columbus Avenue north to the city limits. This will adversely affect neighborhoods.

MOTION: The changes in Chapter 27, Section 77, requiring 30 foot setbacks from Columbus Avenue north to the city limits be delayed until it can be reviewed adequately. (Spencer Kass, seconded by Desiree Valdes. Passed unanimously.)

8. Richard Formica reported that the Riverwalk Commission has not met recently although city Council is upset with certain design features of the new Curtis Hixon Park. He expects a meeting soon to resolve these conflicts.
9. Several THAN members pleaded that the progress to passage of the Green Building Ordinance be slowed. They contend that discussion has not been adequate.
10. Bill Duvall reported that *Paint-Your-Hear-Out, Tampa* faces a serious shortage of houses to be painted. He said that it was not too late for THAN neighborhoods to contribute to have their names appear on the T-shirt.

11. On Monday, February 18, from 7:00 till 8:30 p.m., the TECO Franchise Agreement will be discussed at the Children's Board on Palm Avenue. Our representative to this meeting is Patt Fosnaught. THAN members were encouraged to attend to discuss such issues as tree trimming, burying lines, size of poles and other issues that affect neighborhoods.
12. Vice President Randy Baron reported that some city council members think that the open information meetings in the Mascotte Room violate the Sunshine Law. However, eliminating them would limit citizen contact with the council members to the formal Workshop format. President Wofford Johnson wants THAN to discuss the walls being erected separating council members from neighborhoods and citizens at a future meeting.
13. Spencer Kass tried to speak to builders. We have many of the same concerns and so should have a dialog. A THAN representative is invited to their meetings with the Construction Services Department.
14. SAVE THE DATE!!! THAN's 20th Anniversary Celebration will be held at Stetson Law School in Tampa Heights. [The date mentioned at the Meeting has changed. The Mayor's schedule will allow the celebration on Wednesday, May 14, from 6:30 till 9:00 p.m. It will replace our May Meeting, however the By Laws require that the Election Nominating Committee report at this meeting, so we must assemble briefly to receive that report and to solicit further nominations.] We need the help of the THAN members to plan this celebration. Many suggestions were received from the floor and the discussion will continue at the March Meeting.
15. Jill Buford asked that we publicize the *Getting Green by Going Green* EXPO, part of a two-week series of community sustainability events. It will be held on April 12 at the USF Sun Dome, in partnership with the Planning Commission, USF and the Urban Charrette. The contact person is Mr. Jamie Robe of the Planning commission, 272-5940, ext. 331.
16. TAMPA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. The Planning Commission has been involved in a multi-year effort to update the Plan that guides Tampa's future. A draft of the revision is available on line at www.plan2025.org. Please look, read, and comment. The overall theme for the Plan is building a livable city. See if you agree. On Thursday, February 28, at 10:00 a.m., Council will hold a Workshop to discuss the Plan update. On Monday, March 10, **[postponed till April 15]** following the regular Planning Commission Meeting at 2:00 p.m., the Planning Commission will hold a workshop to discuss the Plan update. The Public Hearing is set for May 12. City Council will hold another Workshop on March 20, with a Public Hearing on June 26.
17. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next THAN Meeting is on Wednesday, March 12, from 7:00 till 9:00 p.m. at Union Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary