

**THAN**  
**TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS**  
**MEETING OF MARCH 12, 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 and to remember our troops, wherever they may be. He then asked that we pledge allegiance to the flag.
2. He asked the members and guests present to introduce themselves.
3. Fredric Zerla gave the Secretary's Report. The Minutes of the February Meeting were approved as presented. He reported that THAN now has 44 members. An up-to-date list is kept on our web site.
4. TBARTA. Margie Martin and Beth Alden of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) gave a power point presentation of regional transportation problems and their response.
  - The Authority at present covers the seven counties on the Gulf of Mexico or Tampa Bay from Citrus to Sarasota County.
  - The population growth in this region anticipated by the year 2030 mandates present transportation planning.
  - As automobile traffic congestion will only increase, other modes of transportation are necessary.
  - The urbanization of this region will continue to be detrimental to the environment. Green solutions are necessary.
  - Choices for travel are limited by many factors.
  - We are late in the process. There was no regional funding or agency until the establishment of TBARTA on July 1, 2007.
  - The presentation showed a number of options for routes to make better connections across the region and asked for opinions on the best route or routes.
  - The immediate focus of the plan is on public transit options. Later this year, the type of transit in each corridor will be examined and the public will again be asked for opinions and ideas.
  - While everyone agrees that improvements are necessary, the question is when will they be made and how will they be paid for.
  - At present, TBARTA must have a regional transportation master plan prepared by July, 2009. It might include commuter rail, long distance rapid bus lines, managed lanes and local light rail.
  - For more information, consult their web-site, [www.TBARTA.com](http://www.TBARTA.com).
5. Shannon Edge reported for the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations.
  - The Mayor's *State of the City Address* was given this morning. The video can be seen on the city's web-site, [www.tampagov.net](http://www.tampagov.net). She will also present it at the *Town Hall Meeting* on Wednesday, March 19, 6:00 till 8:00 p.m., at Clark Elementary School in the West Meadows Subdivision, of New Tampa, 19002 Wood Sage Drive.

- The Official Neighborhood Registry update is now due.
  - Communications. Please courtesy copy them on letters and e-mails to City of Tampa Departments.
  - Neighborhood Mini-Grants: They still have checks waiting to be picked up.
  - Their Top Four Initiatives are (1) Tampa Fire Rescue Open Houses, (2) Tampa Police P.A.R.T.Y. in the Parks, (3) The Adopt Your Neighborhood Program for beautification, median enhancement, etc. and (4) Communications, with a special emphasis on Public Works and Hurricane Preparedness.
  - Upcoming Events include the Riverwalk Platt Street ribbon cutting, 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 26, and the Hurricane Expo at MOSI on Saturday, May 31
  - Volunteers are needed to help with the Super Bowl on February 1, 2009. Information is on the city's web-site.
6. Bill Duvall gave the Treasurer's Report. As no activity occurred on the account in February, the balance remains \$8051.77.
7. Vice President Randy Baron told of a threat to eliminate Public Comment at Workshops or Mascotte Room discussions. He wants us to ask our associations if we should oppose this restriction on citizen communication with Council. He noted that citizen or neighborhood input should be as early in the process as possible. Allowing input only at the Public Hearings is too late.

MOTION: THAN will inform City Council that it wants public comment of at least 3 minutes per person at Workshops.

(Sue Lyon, seconded by Patt Fosnaught. Passed unanimously.)

The Secretary was requested to send a letter to Council to this effect. The next meeting of THAN officers and liaison with the mayor is in April. This topic will be on our agenda.

8. Bill Duvall reported that *Paint-Your-Heart-Out, Tampa* still needs houses to paint. Please e-mail him with prospects at [bduvall54@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bduvall54@tampabay.rr.com).
9. President Johnson reported on the Charter Review. We want the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations to be made a Charter Department. Shannon Edge said that the office is already recognized in the Comprehensive Plan under Policy E-22, named Mayor's Liaison Office. It states that "The City shall continue the upper level, non-classified staff position of neighborhood liaison to act as a neighborhood ombudsman to coordinate city departments and communicate with residents on neighborhood issues". She felt that her appointment by Mayor Iorio 2 days after she was elected was a strong symbolic gesture of her seriousness about her Investing in Neighborhoods Strategic Initiative. [Later, Steve LaBour told that the inclusion of the historic Neighborhood Element, unique in the state, in the Comp Plan was initiated by THAN in 1994 and enacted the next year.] However, we still want to pursue this issue of the inclusion of this office in the City Charter as this is the only city office that represents the citizens and neighborhoods directly.

MOTION: THAN requests the Mayor and Council that the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations be included in the City Charter.

(Randy Baron, seconded by Sue Lyon. Passed unanimously.)

Randy Baron will prepare the content of this letter for the Secretary to send.

10. Pat Fosnaught, told that she was unable to attend the hearings on the proposed TECO Franchise Agreement. Davis Islands CA has been trying for some time to have utility wires places underground. The problem is funding, who will pay for it? Also, among other reasons, TECO contends their poles are used for things other than electric wires. We have a letter from Councilwoman Linda Saul-Sena in which she urged people to express their thoughts about the Franchise Agreement in writing (e-mail or letter) to all Council members. She urged people to attend two important meetings.
  - Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m., under Staff Reports, David Smith, City Attorney and Tom Cloud, Special Counsel for the City will present a summary of options on under grounding, the length of the Franchise Agreement and other related issues. **Public comment is encouraged.**
  - Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 a.m. is the first reading of the proposed TECO Franchise Agreement. Again, **public comment is encouraged.**
  - She invites us to contact her at (813) 503-1919 with questions.
11. Councilman John Dingfelder will continue his discussion on Campaign Finance Reform at 6:15 p.m., Monday, March 17, at the Kate Jackson Center.
12. Randy Baron discussed the **Renew Tampa Conference**, April 10 – 12 at the Berriman-Morgan Cigar Factory. Sponsored by the American Institute of Architects' Architectural Heritage Committee and others, the theme is *RENEW TAMPA: Making Preservation Greener*. For information, call (813) 229-3411 or consult [www.renewtampa.com](http://www.renewtampa.com).
13. THAN's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: Sally Flynn reported that Culinary Wizardry will cater the event on Wednesday, May 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at Stetson Law School in Tampa Heights. Each member association will receive 2 tickets. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$10@. Donations are eagerly sought by May 1. Direct them to THAN Treasurer, Bill Duvall.
14. President Johnson reported that the THAN web-site had many hits. Next month, the main item of discussion will be our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.
15. One of Bill Duvall, Spencer Kass or Randy Baron will meet with the Tampa Bay Builders Association when they meet will city staff.
16. Announcement: Green Fest at Plant Park on March 29 – 30.
17. The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m. The next THAN Meeting is on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, from 7:00 till 9:00 p.m. at Union Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary