

THAN
TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2009
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 that we pledge allegiance to the flag. He then asked the members and guests to introduce themselves.
2. Fredric Zerla gave the Secretary's Report. The final version of the August Minutes was accepted as written.
3. Bill Duvall gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance at the beginning of August was \$5907.33, of which \$4882.33 was THAN's treasury and \$1025 was the Mike Flynn Memorial Fund. Deposits and credits in the month totaled \$250. There were no withdrawals. The balance at the end of August in THAN's account was \$5132.33.
4. Carla Jackson reported for the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations. A copy of her report is attached.
5. Margaret Vizzi reported for the Zoning Committee. She told of the three meetings the committee had on the issue of the citation process revisions in Chapter 28.5. The discussions ranged from the view that we want teeth in the zoning enforcement process to the feeling that these citations are draconian and the fees excessive. Some wanted the restricted version of the citation process presently in force to be continued until we see how effective it is. Only when these prove a success should they be expanded. Al Steenson said that he knows of two instances that the warning letter itself caused the property owner to clean up the violation. No citations were necessary. Margaret felt that the warning letter with its 20 day delay should be sufficient. Should adequate action not be taken within this grace period, the citations should be imposed. Steve LaBour suggested that the fines collected go into the Diversion Fund, not the General Fund.

MOTION: THAN accepts the recommendation of the Zoning Committee as stated by Margaret Vizzi.

(Steve LaBour, seconded by Margaret Vizzi. Vote: 14 in favor, 6 opposed. The motion passed.)

6. Margaret Vizzi, again for the Zoning Committee, said that the changes to Chapter 27 are going to the Planning Committee next week.
7. Margaret Vizzi, again for the Zoning Committee, said that another issue before Council is that of people who stand in the street medians selling things or asking for money. Council had forbidden these except for a few select groups; viz., the firemen or the police. Recent court rulings forbade such selectivity. The city is considering safety restrictions such as requiring street solicitors wear reflective jackets.

MOTION: THAN takes no stand on the issue of street solicitors.

(Richard Formica, seconded by Randy Baron. Vote: 15 in favor, 3 against. The motion passed.

8. Sue Lyon alerted the Board to an issue we thought had been settled. Industrial interests wanted to put stacks of debris up to 90 feet high at industrial sites throughout the city. Because of THAN's strong objections, a compromise was reached to the effect that the placement of these stacks was restricted to the port area and their heights capped at 60 feet. Industrial interests are seeking to overthrow this compromise.

MOTION: THAN directs its Secretary to communicate to Council that the compromise should be upheld.

(Spencer Kass, seconded by Sue Lyon. Passed unanimously.) [This letter, composed by Sue Lyon and the Secretary, is attached.]

9. Richard Formica reported on the Green Ordinance and the Riverwalk. At last month's Energy Conservation Task Force Meeting the value of upgrading home insulation was discussed. TECO is offering rebates for this. The dedication ceremony of Hero's Plaza at Coconchobee Park on the Riverwalk is scheduled for September 11. Please let Richard know if your group is interested in a boat ride tour of the Riverwalk. Contact him at rjform@aol.com or 601-7940.
10. Fred Zerla attended the September Meeting of the New North Transportation Alliance at Wofford Johnson's request. He reported that one of the presenters, Ed Crawford, formerly of HART, now of Fast Rail Connect Us, urged support for the grant request to the federal government to build the Rapid Transit Line from Tampa to Orlando, with a stop in Lakeland. He said the recent re-building of I-4 included a path for the line and that the federal grant, augmented by stimulus money, would pay for the project completely. The only thing that needs to be shown in the grant application is local support. For information on how we can demonstrate this support, he asked that we visit www.FastRailConnectUs.com.
11. President Johnson asked for neighborhood reports. Several were given.
12. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Our October meeting has been delayed till Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., to accommodate Mayor Pam Iorio. She will be our guest that evening at the Loretta Ingraham Center at 1615 N. Hubert Ave.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary