

THAN
TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR 2009

Our meetings are held at Union Station unless otherwise indicated.

The officers for 2009 were

President:	Wofford Johnson
Vice President:	Randy Baron
Treasurer:	Bill Duval
Secretary:	Fredric Zerla

As the year began, the Treasury contained \$6162.69. The balance at the last regular meeting in November was \$5230.42 plus \$1025 in the Mike Flynn Memorial Fund.

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

At the January Meeting, six members of City Council were our guests. These were Gwen Miller, Linda Saul-Sena, Mary Mulhern, John Dingfelder, Charlie Miranda, and Joseph Caetano. Chairman Thomas Scott sent regrets as he had other professional responsibilities. After each gave a short introduction, they engaged in a dialog with the audience. Among the many items discussed in a free flowing exchange were the following:

1. The problem of the decaying houses throughout the city exacerbated by the Foreclosure Crisis.
2. The flooding on Henderson Ave. and the city's attempt to end it.
3. The Fertilizer Ordinance and THAN's stance on the TECO Agreement.
4. The improper recording of code ordinance fines.
5. The new way to lay water pipe that does not require the destruction of trees and streets. However, the problem of the immense loss of water suffered by the city because of the poor condition of water pipes remains.
6. Mass transit must be examined.
7. Protection for neighborhoods when construction occurs.
8. THAN's support of the Green Ordinance was praised.
9. The need to put tax dollars back into neighborhoods and to help people with small businesses.
10. THAN was encouraged to help train new people on how to communicate with council.

At the February Meeting, David Homan discussed the needs of the Gasparilla Marathon. Councilman John Dingfelder told of the pressing matter of digital billboards. THAN went on record opposing the proposed Bill Board Agreement because of the threat of light pollution to nearby neighborhoods. THAN also opposed the Wet Zoning request of the two largest malls in the city, Westshore Plaza and International Plaza. If the malls refuse to compromise, we suggest that wet zoning be handled as before, all cases be heard directly by City Council.

In March, we heard from Bonnie Wise, Director of Finance, Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, assisted by Dennis Rogero. Ms. Wise discussed general governmental operations and the three-year economic outlook for the city. She emphasized the policy of *Investing in Neighborhoods*. The April Meeting was devoted to neighborhood issues. THAN allotted up to \$1000 to sponsor representatives to the All American City Conference at which Tampa is one of the finalists. The Zoning Committee discussed the changes to the Rules of the Variance and Review Board which met a week after our meeting. THAN President Wofford Johnson said he would attend and the Board of Directors of THAN went on record supporting him in his discussions.

Our guest at the May Meeting was Assistant Chief Robert Guidara of the Tampa Police Department. He discussed the growing effectiveness of the police and the concomitant reduction of crime in the city. He told of modifications of police procedures that probably caused this crime reduction.

Ernest Mueller, Assistant City Attorney, was our guest at the June Meeting. He explained the proposed Chapter 23.5 to the City Code on the imposition of Civil Citations to aid in the enforcement of the Zoning Code. Although THAN is generally supportive of the citation process, we asked Council to postpone their enactment for 90 days to allow us to explore possible unintended consequences. The Zoning Committee reported that the proposed changes to Chapter 27 would allow truck rentals in Commercial General (CG) Zoning. THAN feared this expansion to allow trucks rentals in small neighborhood stores would impact neighborhoods negatively and went on record opposing it. The results of the annual election of officers were announced. Last year's slate of officers had been elected to another term.

THAN does not meet in July, but because of the importance of the proposed changes to the Zoning Code held a Workshop to discuss them. On Saturday, July 18, we met at the Gandy/Sun Bay South clubhouse. Our guests were Jake Slater, Director of Code Enforcement, Ernest Mueller, Assistant City Attorney, and Susan Wenrick, Area Supervisor, Department of Code Enforcement. The expansion of the city's ability to issue citations was discussed for more than three hours among the officials and the more than 20 attendees. The THAN people referred the matter to THAN's Zoning Committee for action.

THAN resumed regular meetings in August. The meeting involved a discussion of issues that impact neighborhoods. the following became included among the official positions of THAN:

1. THAN requests that any new truck routes through the city not have an adverse impact on neighborhoods.
2. It is the position of THAN that public lands should be used for the benefit of the public and not private individuals or commercial enterprises at the expense of the public. THAN requests that these land/parking sharing agreements never are placed on the consent agenda and that the public be given an opportunity to speak about the agreements after they are presented by city staff.
3. THAN requests that City Council support the sending of a letter to car owners whose cars emit loud noise. This letter would advise the owners about the city's noise ordinance.

At the September Meeting, Margaret Vizzi, reported the Zoning Committee's conclusions about the proposed citation process revision in Chapter 23.5. After extensive examination, discussion, and consideration, the Zoning Committee approved the process. It felt that the warning letter referred to in the implementation process with its 20 day delay would be sufficient for the offender

to respond. Should adequate action be taken within this grace period, the citation should be imposed. THAN officially accepted the recommendation of the Zoning Committee. 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 objection, a compromise was reached to the effect that the placement of these stacks was restricted to the port area and their height capped at 60 feet. Industrial interests are seeking to overthrow this compromise. THAN asked the Secretary to communicate to council that the compromise should be upheld. Sue Lyon and the Secretary composed this letter.

Our October Meeting was held at the Loretta Ingraham Center in West Tampa to accommodate the audience for our guest, Mayor Pam Iorio. The Mayor introduced Chief Jane Castor, newly appointed head of the Tampa Police Department (TPD). Chief Castor remarked that she was proud that Tampa's crime rate had decreased in the past several years. She defined the mission of the TPD as the reduction of crime and the improvement of the quality of life in Tampa in cooperation with the members of the community. The Mayor announced that the budget had just been passed. She wants \$10 million annually for neighborhood improvement, up from the present \$8 million and far more than the \$2 million allotted when she was first elected. She discussed other city issues, then held a long conversation with members of the audience on neighborhood matters. The meeting continued after the mayor departed. Members argued that the Georgetown Property on Tampa Bay, west of Westshore Boulevard, should be converted to a county park. A motion to that effect asked that a letter be sent to the County Commissioners supporting the purchase of the Georgetown Property with ELAP funds.

At the November Meeting, the last of the year, Tonja Brickhouse, Director of the Division of Solid Waste, reported on the major changes coming to the Division. Improvements in technology and changes in demographics have put the pick-up routes seriously out of balance since their last adjustment 30 years ago. These routes will be adjusted and other modifications will be made.

Special thanks go to Shannon Edge and Carla Jackson who constitute the Neighborhood & Community Relations Office, our liaison with the mayor. One or both of these ladies attended each meeting to provide an update on important events in the city. Their assistance has been invaluable.

Richard Formica, THAN's liaison to the Riverwalk Project, kept us up to date on developments in this major civic effort at each meeting. He provided the information that enabled THAN to purchase a commemorative paver on the South Plaza portion of the walk and to encourage neighborhood associations to join us.

In addition to these regular meetings, the officers of THAN and its administration liaison met with the mayor in private session three times this year. THAN members attend Council meetings and Workshops and many meetings of other decision making bodies. They report what they learn to the other members of THAN to make THAN members the best informed citizens of Tampa on administrative issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary