

THAN *Draft*
TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2010
HELD AT THE LORETTA INGRAHAM CENTER

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

1. President Wofford Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 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. Our guests at the meeting were three members of City Council: Chairman Thomas Scott, Mary Mulhern, and John Dingfelder. Other council members sent their regrets that they could not attend. As the meeting was not given public notice, the Sunshine Law prohibited us from meeting with the council members as a group. They were very accommodating by addressing us one at a time while the other two council members were out of the room.
3. Mary Mulhern discussed what she considered the highlights of her year on Council. As she occupies a council seat that is elected city-wide, she considers that her constituency is the entire city. She mentioned the following:
 - a. Community Gardens. Her attempt to extend her own neighborhood's construction of a community garden city-wide was successful. She discovered that many had been formed in various parts of the city and took it as her task to encourage and facilitate others. She enumerated their benefits to general health, finances, and the environment.
 - b. She began the Budget Advisory Committee and it worked well this year.
 - c. She assisted the economic development of small local businesses.
 - d. She traveled to Cuba with Port Authority Board members and business people. She felt that we – the county and Tampa in particular – are losing millions of dollars in not trading with Cuba. Cuban import authorities are very eager to work with us.
 - e. She has encouraged the construction and maintenance of sidewalks throughout the city.
 - f. Her goal is to have land from the city, even carved from city parks, for community gardens.
 - g. She wants earlier information on the budget for a more intelligent budget process.
 - h. She would like to see more emphasis on international trade and travel at the port and airport.
 - i. She wants Tampa to pursue stimulus money aggressively. The current financial difficulties are crippling the city.
 - j. She encourages the city to give priority to the construction and maintenance of sidewalks and signals, especially near schools.
 - k. Rather than speed bumps for traffic calming, she suggests other methods. Sidewalks are instruments of traffic safety.
 - l. As she represents the entire city, she invites us to invite her to our association meetings.

4. Chairman Thomas Scott emphasized several points.
 - a. In the strong mayor form of government the city has, the role of city council is limited. Its major responsibility is to pass a budget.
 - b. He encourages strategic planning sessions in Council's schedule.
 - c. He expressed concern for minority owned businesses.
 - d. The Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA) has targeted East Tampa for redevelopment.
 - e. In an exchange with the audience, Margaret Vizzi expressed opposition to having a hearing master for zoning issues.
 - f. All agreed that the 45 day lead time on approval of the budget does not allow enough time for intelligent discussion.
 - g. The issue of the city's policy on profit from burning garbage was introduced.

5. John Dingfelder made several observations.
 - a. When Mayor Iorio was first elected, she made code enforcement proactive. With the budget cuts, this emphasis has eroded.
 - b. The same is true for other city services.
 - c. Council will consider the electric fence issue. He asked citizens to attend council meetings if they oppose such fences in or near their neighborhoods. This issue has been deferred till the next zoning cycle with a Workshop scheduled for April 22.
 - d. He announced an Alcohol Workshop later this month. A question was asked about the monitoring of the 50% rule that states that in order to be considered a restaurant, an establishment must receive no more than 50% of its income from the sale of alcoholic beverages. Violations were cited. Is anyone checking for compliance of this rule? This is a responsibility of the Zoning Department, but audits are not being done.

6. Fredric Zerla gave the Secretary's Report. The minutes of the November Meeting were approved as presented. He noted that in December he published THAN's Annual Report in order that we might explain to the members of our associations what THAN does. He reported that he had ordered a paver on the Riverwalk to honor THAN. At Richard Formica's suggestion, he asked that the paver be placed on the South Plaza near that of the Mayor. Further, he asked that the pavers around ours be reserved for those of neighborhood associations to create a garden of neighborhood association pavers. The Friends of the Riverwalk, who sponsor these pavers, eagerly accepted this suggestion. When a neighborhood purchases a paver, it should ask that it be placed near THAN's.

7. Richard Formica reported on events along the Riverwalk.
 - a. He repeated the secretary's remarks about the pavers as it had been his suggestion.
 - b. The Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park will open with great fanfare at 2 o'clock, Sunday, January 24.
 - c. The Gasparilla Pirate Invasion is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, from 10 a.m. till 1.p.m. The parade follows at 2 o'clock.
 - d. The Tampa Museum of Art opens to the public on Saturday, February 6, with an exhibition of the paintings, sculpture and prints of Henri Matisse.

8. Bill Duvall gave the Treasurer's Report for November and December. The balance as November began was \$5230.42 plus \$1025 in the Mike Flynn Fund. A deposit of \$75 was made with no withdrawals. December had no deposits and \$40.80 withdrawn. As the year closed, the total in the account was \$6306.72 of which \$5281.72 was THAN's treasury and \$1025 was the Mike Flynn Fund.
9. Shannon Edge reported for the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations. A copy of her report is attached. She wanted to emphasize that in her final year of office, Mayor lorio declared that her big push this year will be the mass transit initiative which, if it passes on March 30th at the County and then at the November 2 election, will reshape the City of Tampa. She also announced that the Neighborhood Registry will no longer require an annual enrollment, but will be updated as needed. Thus any changes to the listed information for an association should be reported immediately.
10. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 10 from 7:00 till 9:00 p.m. at Union Station. Representatives from the History Center will be our guests. We will also invite representatives from the Digital Billboard initiative to explain their position.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary