

**THAN**  
**TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS**  
**MEETING OF August 10, 2010**  
**HELD AT THE UNION STATION**

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

1. President Randy Baron 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. Our first guest was Yvonne Yolie Capin, newly appointed to City Council, replacing John Dingfelder in District 4, South Tampa. Ms. Capin introduced herself to the members of THAN. She told of her many years as a shop owner in the city and how her business evolved to meet changing tastes. She said that her one talent is to recognize talent in others. Her view of the city tells her that the most pressing problem facing the city is economic development. In the broadest sense, this requires establishing an economic environment conducive to job creation. She is very much in favor of the one-cent sales tax for transportation. Members of THAN discussed several issues with her, especially the resurrection of the Sign Ordinance. After years of working on this issue and, what we thought was, final action of Council months ago, the issue is before Council again. We informed Ms. Capin of our distress about the situation.
3. Our second guest was Mary Shavalier of HART who gave us the latest thinking on the routes the light rail would take through Tampa. The specific paths have not been chosen, but the two corridors containing them have. The North Corridor is a rectangle loosely bounded by Florida Avenue, Bears Avenue, and 40<sup>th</sup> Street. The south boundary contains the site of the old Marion Street Jail, the terminus of the Tampa-Orlando rapid transit. The Western Corridor overlaps the Northern as both contain the old Marion Street Jail site. The other boundaries of the rectangular Western Corridor are Main Street in West Tamps, Kennedy Blvd. and beyond West Shore Blvd. Possible extensions include a route up Bruce B. Downs Blvd. into New Tampa and a route connecting the West Shore area with Tampa International Airport. Public Workshops on the possible routes through these corridors will be held in September.
4. Fredric Zerla gave the Secretary's Report. The Minutes of the June Meeting were approved as presented. He reported that since the June Meeting, thirteen associations renewed their THAN membership and one new organization joined. The renewing members are Ballast Point, Bayshore Beautiful, Bayshore Gardens, Bayside West, Beach Park Women's Club, Culbreath Bayou, Davis Islands, Hampton Terrace, Macfarlane Park, The Marina Club of Tampa, Parkland Estates, Riverside Heights, and Sunset Park. We welcome the new member, Culbreath Heights and its President, Jay Lenny, and THAN Representative, Cynthia Shellabarger. The Secretary announced that in the next few days he would send reminder letters to those THAN members who have not yet renewed membership. He then said that members of the Bylaws Committee had asked how many associations were represented at THAN meetings. As no readily readable count was taken, no one knew. To remedy this lapse, he prepared and distributed a roster of THAN representatives and alternates, usually the association president.

5. Bill Duvall gave the Treasurer's Report for June and July. The balance in the account on June 1 was \$5153.37 plus \$1025 in the Mike Flynn Fund, for a total of \$6178.37. In June, a withdrawal of \$265.30 was made for secretarial expenses. As no deposits were made, June ended and July began with a balance of \$4888.07 plus \$1025 in the Mike Flynn Fund, for a total of \$5913.07. July saw a deposit of \$325, the membership dues of 13 associations. As no withdrawals were made, the balance at the end of July was \$5213.07 plus \$1025 in the Mike Flynn Fund, for a total \$6238.07. A discussion ensued about the disposition of the Mike Flynn Fund. His widow, Sally, said that Mike was an avid supporter of the Bayshore Oyster Dome Project and she suggested we donate the money to it.

MOTION: That THAN donate the entire Mike Flynn Fund to Tampa Bay Watch for its Bayshore Oyster Dome Project.

(Margaret Vizzi, seconded by Al Steenson. Passed unanimously.)

6. President Baron said that the Mayor's visit to THAN in November would be held in the newly refurbished Seminole Heights Garden Club. The city is charging \$25 @ hour for rental of this facility for a total of \$75.

MOTION: That THAN pay the \$75 rent to hold the November Meeting at the Seminole Heights Garden Club.

(Margaret Vizzi, seconded by Spencer Kass. Passed unanimously.)

7. Shannon Edge reported for the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations. A copy of her report has been sent to the THAN e-mail list. She noted in particular that her office presented a plaque to past THAN President Wofford Johnson to thank him for his years of dedicated leadership.

8. Margaret Vizzi reported for the Zoning Committee. She said that four issues came before the Committee.
  - a. Community Gardens. The Committee asks that a neighborhood be noticed and a hearing held before a community garden is developed in a neighborhood.
  - b. The Sign Ordinance. As noted in Item #2, the Sign Ordinance which took two years to craft and we thought was established has been resurrected. The proposal would have legal non-conforming signs on a site to allow 50' digital. While it took two years for the original ordinance to be crafted, Council wants this revision done in a month.

MOTION: If this issue is not continued, we allow the Zoning Committee to speak for THAN before Council. (Spencer Kass, seconded by Margaret Vizzi. Passed unanimously.)

- c. Electric Fences. The agreement was established that if a property owner can show that all other means of property protection had failed, then an application for a permit to allow electric fences would be allowed. This requirement is now being watered down to allow the use of police reports several years old concerning trespasses on properties in the vicinity. The Committee wants to retain the original restrictions.
- d. Sidewalk Issue. The city requires that a new business or house provide a sidewalk. If such is not feasible, a contribution of \$45 a linear foot to the Sidewalk

Fund is required. That no provision is made for trees or ditches and the fee is charged on concrete driveways, the Committee finds draconian. The Zoning Committee will review this issue and bring it back to THAN.

9. Martha Jean Lorenzo reported for the Outreach Committee that she would like to explore obtaining professional assistance in obtaining THAN stationery using Patt Fosnaught's design. Susan Long said that she has the computer skills to help. Still, Martha Jean was encouraged to explore what professional printers could do and to discuss the issue with Susan.
10. Wofford Johnson noted that the THAN web site is the basic minimum for a web site. He said that for \$10 @ month (\$120 @ year) we could upgrade the site significantly.

MOTION: That THAN pay \$120 @ year for an upgrade to its web site. (Wofford Johnson, seconded by Fred Zerla. Passed unanimously.)

11. Wofford Johnson reported for the Bylaws Committee. He noted that each of the seven members attended each of the three meetings at Margaret Vizzi's house. He introduced the proposed revision for discussion at the September Meeting. [The Secretary has sent the marked-up version to the THAN list. This version consists of the original Bylaws with sections marked out and other sections added. As the final version is difficult to see from this version, he also sent a Proposed Bylaws copy to show what the Bylaws would look like if all the changes are adopted.]
12. Tree Watch. Wofford Johnson suggested that we need a Tree Watch similar to Crime Watch to watch out for Tampa's trees. Just as Crime Watch educates its members on the details of being observant of crime, we need a cadre of individuals trained in the rules governing tree care and maintenance in each neighborhood of the city. This would aid the Department of Parks & Recreation in protecting trees and help streamline their services. This would be a citywide THAN program administered thorough the Parks and Recreation Department and implemented by each neighborhood association. There was interest in establishing a program, so the issue will be discussed further at the September Meeting.
13. A proposal was made that THAN honor the two recently murdered Tampa police officers by making a donation in their memory.

MOTION: That THAN donate \$100 annually to the Police Memorial Fund. (Al Steenson, seconded by Spencer Kass. Passed unanimously.)

14. Wofford Johnson took a moment to thank Shannon Edge and the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations for presenting him with a recognition plaque. He again thanked the many people whose care and diligence make THAN an effective force in city affairs.
15. Wesley Warren asked that a motion tabled at the June Meeting till the August Meeting be reconsidered. {Item #13 in the June Minutes. MOTION: That THAN ask the Mayor and the members of City Council that they accept an association's bylaws if they conform to federal and state requirements.}

MOTION: That THAN send letters to the Mayor and City Council requesting that they accept an association's bylaws if they conform to federal and state requirements. (Spencer Kass, seconded by Wesley Warren. After an extensive discussion of this motion a vote was called. The motion passed, 11 in favor, 5 opposed.)

16. President Baron brought the assembly's attention to the need for citizen volunteers to serve on several boards. The details of this request had been forwarded to the THAN e-mail list earlier. President Baron reminded the group that citizen participation is necessary for the effective functioning of the city.

17. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, from 7:00 till 9:00 p.m. at Union Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary