



Tampa Homeowners, an Association of Neighborhoods

October 6, 2010

THAN People:

The next THAN Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 13, 2010**, from 7:00 till 9:00 p.m. at Union Station.

FYI: The second reading of the sidewalk ordinance is tomorrow, October 7. Also the city will have a Workshop on panhandling on Thursday, October 14 at 10:30. We want to have someone there to discuss THAN's position. This means we must decide what THAN's position is.

TOPICS at the October 13th Meeting: A representative from the group advocating passage of the fair districting amendments will explain them. Also, Shannon Edge's Office of Neighborhood Relations Report will discuss some upcoming issues before Council.

Land Development will be having two meetings to discuss upcoming proposed Chapter 27 changes, including administrative wet zonings. The meetings are scheduled for next Monday (10/11) and Wednesday (10/13 THAN night) at 6:00 p.m. in Council chambers. As no presentation to THAN will be made, your association should have a representative at the Monday meeting to hear about these changes.

We will consider the modifications in the Bylaws. Please bring the two copies I sent to you: **the marked-up copy Sally Flynn** prepared showing the changes proposed in the existing Bylaws and the **Proposed Final Copy** I made incorporating these changes. However, the version we will be working with is Wofford's, which I attached to this announcement. For a final vote on these bylaws changes, we need a quorum of 16 members. PLEASE have the THAN Representative or designated alternate (usually the president) attend!

To date, 35 THAN members have renewed their memberships and two associations that had not been members joined. This means that 9 members have not renewed their memberships. I first sent renewal notices before the July 1 deadline. After the August Meeting, I sent a polite but pointed reminder. The Bylaws give a grace period for associations to be considered members till the October Meeting. After this meeting, I will send a final reminder to the association's president and THAN representative regretfully informing them that the association is no longer a member of THAN, although it would be welcomed back at any time.

I am sending the final draft of **the September Minutes**. Many thanks to Margaret Vizzi for suggesting that the status of the Mike Flynn Fund has been resolved and for adding item 6d to her Zoning Report.

THAN Past President Wofford Johnson has **revised the THAN web site**. He would like us to look at it and send him comments. The address is www.tampanthan.org.

If you are no longer the THAN Representative of your organization or if someone else should also receive these announcements, please give me names and addresses (e-mail addresses preferred). I

repeat, if you are no longer interested or involved in neighborhood activities, please let me know so that I can remove your name from the THAN e-list. I am short on space.

Remember that the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations keeps a calendar of events on their web site: www.tampagov.net/neighborhoods. Inform them of your neighborhood activities and consult the calendar to see what others are doing.

Sincerely yours,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary

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Minutes of September 8th Membership meeting

THAN

TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS

MEETING OF September 8, 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. Fredric Zerla gave the Secretary's Report. The Minutes of the August Meeting were approved as presented. He reported that, since the August Meeting, seven associations had renewed membership in THAN. These are: Beach Park Isles CA, East Ybor Historic & CA, Golf View Civic & Garden Association, North Bon Air NA, North Hyde Park CA, Southeast Seminole Heights VA, and Rainbow Heights Crime Watch. THAN now has 36 members of which 35 are renewals and one is new. The nine associations that have not renewed membership are given a grace period by the Bylaws till the close of the October Meeting. Of course, membership will be restored immediately upon receipt of the membership form and the dues.
3. Bill Duvall gave the Treasurer's Report. As August began, the account contained \$6238.07 comprising \$5213.07 in THAN's account and \$1025 in the Mike Flynn Fund. A deposit of \$350 was made to the THAN account for membership dues from 14 associations. A withdrawal of \$75 was made for the rent of the Seminole Heights Community Center for the November Meeting. The Treasurer sent a check made out to Tampa Bay Watch for the entire Mike Flynn Fund to Sally Flynn so that she might deliver it to them. The check has not yet cleared. As August ended and September began, the treasury contained \$6513.07 of which \$5488.07 was THAN's and \$1025

the Mike Flynn Fund.

4. Our guest for the meeting was Curtis Stokes, recently appointed to City Council replacing Linda Saul-Sena as an at-large member. We asked Councilman Stokes to introduce himself. He told that he had moved to Tampa in 1992, locating in North Tampa but moved to Tampa Palms in 1996. He is a banker with Fifth/Third Bank. His aim on Council "is to make good decisions". He has come to realize that Council cannot do anything without neighborhood associations. He will make sure that THAN is involved in his decisions. After his remarks, Councilman Stokes carried on a dialog with the assembly. Among the issues discussed was that of abandoned properties, especially those owned by big developers. These developers refuse to keep up their houses. Councilman Stokes said that he would encourage home ownership and restrict Section 8 occupancy. However, he was reminded, the problem we are discussing is that of a big developer who refuses to care for a property. Carla Jackson observed that Code Enforcement now has a special area that concentrates on vacancies, Housing & Community Development. Contact its manager, Sharon West, at 274-7992.

5. Carla Jackson reported for the Office of Community & Neighborhood Relations. She encourages associations to keep the information on the Neighborhood Registry current. A copy of her report was distributed at the meeting and, later, sent to the THAN e-list.

6. Margaret Vizzi reported for the Zoning Committee.

a. A public information meeting on the News Rack Issue will be held in the Mascotte Room of City Hall beginning at 10:00 a.m., Friday, September 17. [Spencer Kass' information on this meeting was sent to the THAN e-mail list.]

b. Charlie Miranda wants to change the contribution requirement of the Sidewalk Ordinance. Several anomalies were cited that suggested the ordinance was adopted without enough thought.

c. The change in the Sign Ordinance did not pass. THAN had encouraged neighborhood associations to contact Council expressing their opposition.

d. A workshop on changes to the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance will be held in October. Date to be determined.

7. Wofford Johnson discussed the Tree Watch. He asked if THAN wants to take a lead on this issue. We would ask each member association to have a volunteer watch trees to see that they are not secretly damaged.

MOTION: That THAN approve and encourage Tree Watch and that we ask the neighborhood associations to participate.

(Wofford Johnson, seconded by Ann Johnson. Passed unanimously.) President Baron then appointed the (ad-hoc) Tree Watch Committee: Wofford Johnson, Sue Lyon, Sally Flynn, Richard Formica, and Bobby Ann Tarcza.

8. Wofford Johnson reported for the Bylaws Committee. The proposed modifications to the Bylaws were introduced at the August Meeting, are to be discussed at this meeting and will be voted on at the October Meeting. The discussion centered on the provision that allowed former presidents to retain membership in THAN.

9. Carrie Grimail, THAN Representative from the Sunset Park Area Homeowners Association, inquired about having a workshop on cell towers. President Baron wants a workshop on administrative procedures first. This workshop would instruct our members on how to navigate the frequently Byzantine requirements to communicate their needs to the proper authorities. Further,

he reported, Hillsborough County is investigating the cell tower issue and has promised a report in the next few months. He suggested we wait for this report before we proceed with a Cell Tower Workshop.

10. Al Steenson, President and THAN Representative of Gandy/Sunbay South Civic Association, asked what can be done to clear up the eviction piles that plague his neighborhood. A discussion was held on what neighborhoods and city resources can do about these unsightly trash piles.

MOTION: That President Randy Baron discusses the problem of eviction piles of trash with Tonya Brickhouse, Director of the Division of Solid Waste. (Sue Lyon, seconded by Al Steenson. Passed unanimously.)

11. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 13, 2010, from 7:00 till 9:00 p.m. at Union Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary