



**TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS  
MEETING OF November 10, 2010  
HELD AT THE SEMINOLE HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB**

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

1. President Randy Baron 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. A quorum of the members was present.
2. The Minutes of the October Meeting were approved with an observation by Margaret Vizzi of the Zoning Committee. In Item 5n, it should be noted that, as reported in the Minutes of the Meeting of August 10, 2010, the Zoning Committee asked that a neighborhood be noticed and a hearing held before a community garden is developed in a neighborhood.
3. President Baron welcomed our guest, Mayor Pam Iorio. The Mayor immediately asked the audience for questions.
  - a. Vicki Polleya, Bayshore Gardens, asked about the Georgetown Project. This is our last chance to have a park on Tampa Bay, Vicki stated. ELAP is not helping and the owner has divided the property into lots. The mayor responded that things have not gone well. The owner wanted too much money for the portion we wanted. ELAP could not afford it. DeBartolo owns it. We had hoped they would be more realistic as the city supported them in getting the bid.
  - b. Spencer Kass, Virginia Park, asked about panhandling since council rejected imposing a ban on it. The mayor observed that we need to inform council and the county commissioners about the safety hazard of allowing people in the medians to solicit funds from cars. The county is concerned about the problem of homelessness and we want to separate this issue from it.
  - c. Al Steenson, Gandy/Sunbay South, asked about the future of the Transportation Issue. The mayor was pessimistic. While the city voted for improvements in public transportation, the county was overwhelmingly opposed. She hoped that the voters in the county could be persuaded of the necessity of improvements in the future.
  - d. Sue Lyon, Bayshore Beautiful, returned to the Panhandling Issue. She said that the newspapers in St. Petersburg were opposed to the ban on solicitors in the medians because of efforts to sell Sunday papers in this fashion. The mayor observed that a possible compromise might be to allow such solicitation on Sunday only, although this does not mitigate the safety issue.
  - e. Randy Baron, South Seminole Heights, asked where the mayor sees the city finances going. She replied that we have had immense cuts and workforce reduction. We have a lot less to spend on neighborhood improvements. Property evaluation is down 25% and this trend is continuing. She thinks property values will remain flat. The cost of the work force is going up with increasing health care and pension costs. She observed that the governor-elect promised in his campaign a 19% cut in property taxes. She was pessimistic.
  - f. Richard Formica, Temple Crest, asked what the mayor considers her worst mistake during her tenure. After some thought, the mayor replied that she regretted most allowing the Viñoly Art Museum Project to drag on too long. She

realized from the start that it was untenable, but allowed discussion to continue in the hope that a good compromise could be found. Eventually, no option could withstand scrutiny so she abandoned the project. But too much time and money had been spent in the effort.

- g. Randy Baron asked about her plans to transform Zack Street into a *Promenade of the Arts*. She replied that this effort continues with plans to decorate the street with public art to draw people downtown.
  - h. Spencer Kass asked about her thoughts on the Armory Site. She replied that it was in the hands of the National Guard. She liked the idea that the Armory be converted to an auxiliary of the Veterans' Hospital to be used as an outpatient clinic.
  - i. Wofford Johnson, Past President, thanked the mayor for her support to the Neighborhood Tree Watch program. The program is getting very good support from the Parks & Recreation and the Construction Services Departments. Also, preliminary discussions with several Neighborhood Associations have been very positive and we hope to kick the program off shortly after the first of the year. We believe it is the only such project in the country. The mayor said she appreciated THAN's efforts to preserve city trees.
  - j. Debra McCormack, Forest Hills, asked if the mayor would endorse a mayoral candidate. The mayor replied that she has that option but it is too soon to tell if she would exercise it.
  - k. Marlin Anderson, Sunset Park, asked about the resurfacing of Westshore Blvd. She replied that the city would work with the county on that.
  - l. Vicki Pollyea observed that issues with sidewalks and potholes were huge. The mayor replied that the city is trying to lay sidewalks where feasible. As to potholes, she asked that we inform the city immediately when we see one. Her policy is that they be filled as quickly as possible but it is impossible for city inspectors to canvas the city effectively.
  - m. Bill Duvall, Past President, thanked the mayor for her support of *Paint-Your-Heart-Out, Tampa*. She thanked Bill for his continuing leadership.
4. In concluding remarks, Mayor Iorio thanked THAN for its concern about the city. She observed that we must care for every neighborhood, otherwise people move and the neighborhood deteriorates. She said that early in her tenure, she appointed Shannon Edge as an active liaison with neighborhoods. Shannon and her staff at the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations have done an excellent job. The mayor concluded that the system works; we listen to you, everyone works together as partners for the good of the city.
5. Margaret Vizzi, reporting for the Zoning Committee, reminded that the Chapter 27 changes go to council on December 9.
6. in a surprise move, Randy Baron resigned a President of THAN for personal reasons, effective immediately.
7. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The December Meeting is superseded by the Mayor's Holiday Open House. THAN's next meeting is on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, from 7:00 till 9:00 p.m. at Union Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary

ADDENDUM: Because of the mayor's visit, the meeting had been truncated. Standard items that should have been mentioned were not. I include them here. Bill Duvall's Treasurer's Report stated that no activity took place in the account during October. So THAN began and ended the month with \$5380.47 in its treasury. Fredric Zerla reported that since the October Meeting, membership renewals were received from Carver City/Lincoln Gardens, Old Seminole Heights, Palma Ceia, Stoney Point and Terrace Park. Past Presidents Wofford Johnson and Bill Duvall also joined.