

# THAN

## TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS

MEETING OF January 12, 2011

### HELD AT UNION STATION

1. President Jerry Frankhouser 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. A quorum of the members was present.
2. Our guests were from the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. Sherry Silk, Executive Director, discussed the problem of feral cats, thousands of which roam the county. She told of the Humane Society's program to capture, neuter, vaccinate and release these cats back to their home local. Cats thus treated can be identified by a tipped ear (a small slice is cut from one ear). The project is funded by a large grant from Petsmart. Euthanasia, as is done by the Hillsborough Animal Services, is less expensive but does not address the problems of disease and population control. Cats are territorial. Even neutered cats defend their territory against colonization by other cats. She urged neighborhood help.
3. Fredric Zerla gave the Secretary's Report. The Minutes of the November Meeting were approved as presented. He noted that he has been publicizing information about candidate forums sponsored by THAN neighborhood member groups to the THAN e-list.
4. Bill Duvall gave the Treasurer's Report. As November began, the account contained \$5380.47. During the month, membership dues totaling \$175 were deposited and no withdrawals occurred. When November ended, the account contained \$5555.47. The account saw no activity in December. Steve LaBour joined THAN as a past president.
5. An election was held to fill the vacancy in the vice presidency. The only nominee was Wofford Johnson, who was elected by acclamation.
6. Wofford Johnson reported for the Tree Watch Project. He prepared the draft of a brochure to be sent to the presidents of city neighborhood associations explaining the project. He explained that its organization is to be modeled after that of the Neighborhood Crime Watch. Once the Tree Watch volunteers are chosen by and from the participating neighborhood associations, they need to be schooled in the details of tree management. He suggested a Saturday morning training session for this, perhaps in March.
7. THAN's candidate meet & greet was discussed. Ann Johnson, the coordinator, pictured it as a get-acquainted time between THEN representatives and THAN member presidents with candidates for council seats and mayor. The Loretta Ingraham Center was suggested as the site and the date was that of THAN's next meeting on Wednesday, February 9. The time from 6:30 till 7:30 p.m. would be allotted to candidates for council seats and from 7:30 till 8:30 p.m. to mayoral candidates or vice versa. Only THAN Representatives and presidents of THAN associations would be invited to attend. President Frankhouser appointed the following to the Planning Committee: Ann Johnson, Sue Lyon, Steve LaBour, Sally Flynn and Wofford Johnson.

MOTION: THAN supports hosting a meet-and-greet of council and mayoral candidates at our February Meeting. Council candidates will be featured from 6:30 till 7:30 p.m. and mayoral candidates from 7:30 till 8:30 p.m. (Ann Johnson, seconded. Passed by acclamation.)

8. Shannon Edge reported for the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations. A copy of her report has been e-mailed to the THAN e-list. She mentioned that information on the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) has been sent to the presidents of associations on the Neighborhood registry. Thom Snelling heads this effort.

9. Margaret Vizzi reported for the Zoning Committee that a Workshop will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 27, in Council chambers on modifications to the Transportation Concurrency Exemption.

MOTION: THAN requests that the approval of Community Gardens go before City Council; i.e., that it be an S<sub>2</sub> issue, not an S<sub>1</sub> matter. This would allow comments by neighborhoods before Council acts.

(Margaret Vizzi, seconded)

AMENDMENT: That THAN ask for a waiver of fees for a public hearing on Community Gardens. (Barry Sholinsky, seconded. The amendment failed with 5 in favor and 10 opposed.)

The main motion passed by acclamation.

MOTION: That Council consider waiving the fee for a public hearing on the establishment of a Community Garden. (Margaret Vizzi, seconded. Passed unanimously.)

10. President Frankhouser asked for Neighborhood Reports. Several were given. Terry Cullen of Marina Club of Tampa HOA reported a growing problem in his neighborhood that others may be sharing. Illegal businesses, mostly car washes, are springing up unchecked and unregulated. The Zoning Department should be notified if such appear. On another matter, guest Clay Daniel of Rainbow Heights NA (not a member of THAN) told of a serious issue in his neighborhood. Loud music is being played continuously from morning till night. Not only is the sound extremely annoying, debasing the quality of life in the area, but it is frequently used by drug dealers to attract customers. The neighborhood has persuaded City Council to conduct a Workshop on the issue at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 24 in Council chambers.

MOTION: That THAN directs its secretary to draft a letter to Council supporting a ban on loud music throughout the city. (Al Steensen, seconded. Passed unanimously.)

11. The Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled from 6:30 till 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, at the Loretta Ingraham Center in West Tampa. Please note the change of time and place. We will notify our members later if arrangements can be made for this venue.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary