

THAN
TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2009
HELD AT UNION STATION

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

1. President Wofford Johnson 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 final version of the June Minutes was accepted as written. He then told that of the 42 associations in THAN, 22 had rejoined and 2 associations that had not been members joined. He read the names of the associations yet to be heard from together with their presidents and THAN representatives. Four associations joined at this meeting. [The secretary mailed reminders to the remaining 16 the next day.]
3. Bill Duvall gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance at the beginning of June was \$6923.97, of which \$1025 was the Mike Flynn Memorial Fund. Deposits and credits in the month totaled \$425.99, while withdrawals were \$1442.63. the balance at the end of June was \$5907.33. As the account had no activity in July, the balance remained \$5907.33 (THAN \$4882.33; Mike Flynn Memorial Fund, \$1025.)
4. Shannon Edge reported for the Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations. A copy of her report will be sent to THAN people. She especially wanted to say that while she and Carla Jackson, who constitute the Office, would like to visit each neighborhood association, satisfying all such requests has become a physical impossibility. She suggested a cluster system in which she or Carla would visit a group of associations. In the discussion that ensued, a request was made that the mayor also attend such cluster meetings.
5. Randy Baron reported on the Workshop THAN held on Saturday, July 18, at the Gandy/Sun Bay South clubhouse. Our guests were Jake Slater, Director of Code Enforcement, Ernest Mueller, Assistant City Attorney, and Susan Wenrick, Area Supervisor, Department of Code Enforcement. The expansion of the city's ability to issue citations was discussed for more than three hours among the officials and the more than 20 attendees. The conversational style exchange was so successful that we decided to hold such workshops again on topics of major interest. The THAN people referred the matter to the THAN Zoning Committee for action. (Item #6.)
6. The Zoning Committee discussed the amendment, Chapter 23.5, on the expansion of the citation process. Margaret Vizzi, Randy Baron,, Wofford Johnson, and Spencer Kass told of the many currents of thought expressed in the meeting. One idea is that the 43 page, small print, document of expansion of the citation process is too long. Code Enforcement should concentrate on the worst violations first, then expand gradually to those of lesser impact. They should advertise the new areas in which citations will be issued so the public will be aware of this process. Code Enforcement was encouraged to work more

closely with neighborhoods. The citation process was defended as putting teeth into the citing of already existing code violations, something THAN had long advocated. The dilemma revolved around two points. First, THAN has for years encouraged that Code Enforcement be given the means to resolve violations more quickly. But, second, the length and expansion of the new citation process will cause confusion among the citizens of Tampa. We will return to this discussion at our September Meeting as Council allowed us 90 days to comment at their meeting a month ago.

7. Margaret Vizzi reported for the Zoning Committee that the amendments to the Comprehensive Plan are only to our benefit.
8. Richard Formica reported on three meetings he attended. A copy of these reports will be provided for THAN people.
 - a. *The Dutch Approach to Climate Change: A Dialog with Tampa Bay*. This conference, held at the Alumni Center on the USF Campus on June 12, explained how the Dutch are responding to climate change in general and to sea level rising in particular. The problems in the Netherlands are similar to those soon to be faced by Florida.
 - b. *A status report on the Riverwalk*. The Downtown Partnership – Riverwalk Status Meeting was held on June 22 at the Sheraton Tampa Riverwalk Hotel.
 - c. *Photovoltaic Possibilities*. Comments by Irvin Lee questioning TECO about the installation of photovoltaic cells to reduce costs and conserve energy. In particular, he suggested installing these on the roofs of the Convention Center and other nearby buildings.
9. A report was given about the meeting of THAN officers with Mayor Iorio on July 14. The mayor discussed the budget cutbacks. We urged that the \$15,000 for neighborhood grants be restored. Fireworks continue to be a problem. It seems that in a response to a citizen's complaint, a policeman replied that discharging fireworks in the city was legal. The city attorney confirms the contrary; they are illegal. We asked that this information be conveyed to the police. We expressed concerns about median maintenance in the roadways. Median maintenance has been contracted out and the new contractor is trying to do a better job.
10. MOTION: THAN requests that any new truck routes not have an adverse impact on neighborhoods.
(Margaret Vizzi, seconded by Bobby Ann Tarcza. Passed unanimously.)
11. Should THAN form a Foundation to aid struggling neighborhoods? The consensus was that this involves a lot of work and more resources than we have.
12. Spencer Kass expressed concern about the use of city land by private individuals. He cited several bad instances.

MOTION. It is the position of THAN that public lands should be used for the benefit of the public and not private individuals or commercial enterprises at the expense of the public. THAN requests that these land/parking sharing agreements never are placed on the consent agenda and that the public be given an opportunity to speak about the agreements after they are presented by city staff.

(Spencer Kass, seconded by Abby d'Oronzio. Passed unanimously.)

13. MOTION. THAN requests that City Council support the sending of a letter to car owners whose cars emit loud noise. This letter would advise the owners about the city's Noise Ordinance. (Margaret Vizzi, seconded by Bobby Ann Tarcza. Passed unanimously.)
14. President Johnson requested a meeting with Bonnie Wise, Director of Finance, and she agreed. The meeting resulted in an agreement that the Finance Department provide THAN a quarterly update on how the neighborhood budget funds are being spent and, to the extent possible, to identify where the monies are being spent by section of the city.
15. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 9, at Union Station. Our October meeting has been delayed till Wednesday, October 21, to accommodate Mayor Iorio. She will be our guest that evening at the Loretta Ingraham Center at 1615 N. Hubert Ave.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary