

THAN
TAMPA HOMEOWNERS, AN ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
MEETING OF APRIL 13, 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. We welcomed our guest, Mayor Bob Buckhorn, who spoke of his close working relationship with members of THAN. Ever since THAN was founded, he has been involved in issues THAN cares about. As to the current problems Tampa faces, he noted the following.
 - a. We have a 23 million dollar budget deficit. However, Mayor Iorio left the government on firm fiscal foundations. She built the emergency reserves that are available to meet unforeseen crises.
 - b. He has asked the departments to give budget requests with 10 to 15% cuts.
 - c. Property taxes have been capped so even if the economy rebounds and property values increase, the city will benefit only slightly.
 - d. He has three key administrative slots to fill. He just appointed Jim Shimberg the new City Attorney. He still needs to appoint a Chief of Staff and to replace Bonnie Wise as Chief Financial Officer. He expressed regret that she left this post to accept a similar position with Hillsborough County.
 - e. Land Development needs to be more business friendly. The permitting process is too painful.
 - f. He wants to appoint a Deputy Mayor for Economic Opportunity and a Deputy Mayor for Neighborhood Empowerment.
3. Mayor Buckhorn then opened the floor to questions and conversation.
 - a. Margaret Vizzi warned that we should be careful about how development affects neighborhoods. We should avoid negative impacts. The Mayor replied that development should be concentrated in appropriate areas. He feels that Downtown is the proper place for high density development.
 - b. Richard Formica cautioned that the environment be kept in mind while promoting development. The Mayor agreed. In streamlining the permitting process, we will be mindful of the environment. However, it is important that we get development moving as it is the only way to plug the budget deficit.
 - c. Patricia Torres noted that the new Wet Zoning Regulation removes neighborhoods from the approval process.
 - d. Al Steenson complained that the Legislature is gutting the Department of Community Affairs and asked the Mayor's reaction. He replied that he cannot read the Governor. He does not know where he is going.
 - e. Several questions were asked about water. The new developments need water. To whom do we provide water? The Mayor observed that water will dictate what the state looks like. He wants to revive the reclaimed water project. He thought about pumping it to the Green Swamp and allowing it to

- flow to the river and into the aquifer. In the process, it will be cleaned naturally. We will need a public education effort to allay fears of contamination.
- f. Will the Ybor Trolley be used for transportation to other parts of the city? No.
 - g. Wofford Johnson asked about help to begin the Tree Watch Program. Getting it started is difficult as the signs, at \$39 each, are expensive for many neighborhoods. He asked if the Mayor could see financial support. The Mayor suggested that the tree cutting fines be used for this purpose. Wofford replied that Parks & Recreation is opposed. The Mayor indicated that this policy might change.
 - h. The Mayor was asked if he considers Neighborhoods as partners with the City Administration. Absolutely, he replied. We all must work together. It was noted that often a Neighborhood is excited about a project, but often it encounters hostility from the City. The Mayor promised this approach would be much more amenable to Neighborhoods.
 - i. A members complained that it takes effort for a citizen to come downtown to speak before Council, a committee or board. Sometimes the speaker is treated with disrespect. They try to squash our voice. Would the Mayor please set the tone? The Mayor replied that he would assure that his staff was respectful. He hoped this feeling would permeate the other entities.
 - j. The Mayor was asked about the Riverfront, and in particular, the Waterworks Park in Tampa Heights. The Mayor is also anxious that this park be completed and open to the public.
 - k. The Mayor was asked about improving HART. He wants to energize HART because we need a bus service that will revitalize the downtown core.
 - l. The Mayor thanked the members of THAN for all that they do to benefit the city. He expects to work closely with THAN during his administration.
4. Fredric Zerla gave the Secretary's Report. The March Minutes were approved as presented. He said that he would send election ballots and THAN membership renewals to the THAN Representatives of record and the past presidents who are members soon after the May Meeting.
 5. Bill Duvall gave the Treasurer's Report. As March began, the account balance was \$5605.47. No deposits were made during the month. Two checks were written. The first to Wofford Johnson for expenses incurred by the Candidates Meet & Greet for \$79.79. The second was for our corporation dues with the state, \$61.25. The total of these was \$141.04, leaving a balance in the account at the end of March of \$5464.43.
 6. Bill Duvall reported that *Paint Your Heart Out, Tampa* held on Saturday, April 9, was a big success with 102 homes painted. This brought the number of houses painted in the history of the event to more than 2300.
 7. Richard Formica reported on developments.
 - a. Concerts are being staged in Curtis Hixon Park and Lowry Park in April and May. Information is on the City website, www.tampagov.net, look under Parks & Recreation.
 - b. The Eighth International Dragon Boat Races will be held on Saturday, April 30, at Cotanchobbe/Fort Brooks Park near the Marriot Waterside. Races begin at 9:00 a.m.

- c. An online survey is being conducted by the University of Florida Cooperative Extension service about the future of educational and research programs dealing with wildlife and urban forestry. Take the survey on the following secure website. https://ufaecd.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5zsTd3yLMDDKDDC.
8. Shannon Edge reported for the Office of Neighborhood & Neighborhood Relations. Her report was distributed at the meeting and, on-line, to the THAN e-list. She urged that neighborhoods send her their wish lists so she can be aware of the needs of the city. Further, not in the report, she urged everyone to sign up for ALERT TAMPA, the city's emergency notification system. Information is on the city's web site.
9. President Frankhouser appointed the Nomination Committee to submit a slate of candidates for the four THAN offices at the May Meeting. The members are, in alphabetical order, Sally Flynn, Steve LaBour, Sue Lyon, Joseph Robinson, and Margaret Vizzi. The committee will select its own chair.
10. Martha Jean Lorenzo, chair of the Outreach Committee, told of its efforts to contact associations not members of THAN to encourage them to join. She asked that when we are aware of such an association, we notify her.
11. The Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, from 7:00 till 9:00 p.m. at Union Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Fredric Zerla, Secretary