



Neighborhoods Strong

**MINUTES OF THE
MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
OF THE
Council of Neighborhood Associations of Southern Pinellas
County, Inc. (CONA)
Sunshine Center, 330 5th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701**

February 19, 2020

President Jennifer Joern called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

District 5 City Council Member Deborah Figgs-Sanders lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Motion of Marlene Murray, seconded by Vicki Shuman, and without objection, the Minutes of the January 15, 2020, CONA Membership Meeting were approved unanimously.

WELCOME CITY STAFF & SPPD:

- President Joern welcomed Robert Barto, Neighborhood Specialist with the Community Services Department.
- Chris Clause with the Water Department advised that workshops for Florida Friendly Landscaping are under way. Click [this link](#) for schedules and event descriptions.
- Rick Craft, Parks and Recreation Program Superintendent, announced that Fire Fighters and Life Guards are putting on a car wash at Northwest Parking lot from 9:00 to Noon on Saturday February 22, 2020, with the proceeds going to swimming lessons. Donations only.
- Council Member Deborah Figgs-Sanders reported that the City Council was not meeting this week since some Council Members are in Tallahassee.
- SPPD has some new officers and assignments. Major Rob Mailholt from District 2; Major Dave Gerardo from District 3; Patricia Hubbard is newly with District 2, assigned to the downtown corridor; Sergeant Jason Deary CSO from District 2; Sergeant Brian Gaynor CSO from District 1; and Acting Sergeant Jeff Lewis CSO for District 3 discussed auto thefts, particularly the importance of locking your car, and efforts to control juvenile auto theft offenders.

EXPRESS SPEAKER - 2020 CENSUS:

Gina Gallo with Pinellas County's Complete Count Committee presented information on the Pinellas County effort to make sure that everyone is counted. She emphasized how important it is to have everyone counted as this count forms the basis for future funding for local government projects and for how we are represented in Washington and Tallahassee and Saint Petersburg (redistricting). This is the constitutionally mandated count that is required every ten years. The Census seeks only basic statistical information. There is no citizenship question on the official Census form.

Pinellas County has an informational Web site operated through [Pinellas County's Complete Count Committee](#) chaired by Commissioner Kenneth T. Welch. This local site also contains information on meetings and presentations making it easy to obtain valid information about the Census process. There are volunteer opportunities available with sub-committees.

[U. S. Census Bureau Web site](#) can provide information and support for anyone having concerns about whether material received is a valid Census Bureau inquiry. That Web site also has information on applying for paid Census worker jobs.

The Census process will primarily be conducted online, and will start in mid to late March with mailed notices to complete the online form, with follow up visits in June and July, ending this Summer. The Census inquiry is done by household or address, and is not focused on individuals. A complete count assures that we get the proper funding and representation for our community.

SPOTLIGHT SPEAKER - MATCHING GRANT APPLICATIONS:

Thomas Paterek, former two time President of Crescent Heights NA, presented the experience of CHNA in obtaining a Neighborhood Partnership Matching Grant. CHNA has obtained Matching Grants twice, once for public art and most recently for installation of Florida native landscaping in small public spaces throughout the neighborhood. Matching grants may be cash for cash, or volunteer hours for grant money, or a combination of both methods.

The City of Saint Petersburg sets out several types of grants [in the City Web site](#) that are available for projects. This includes the Neighborhood Partnership Matching Grants which can be up to \$20,000.00 per year per neighborhood. The Neighborhood Grants are administered through the City's Community Services Department at 727-892-5141.

The process is easy, and he is surprised that more neighborhoods don't take advantage of this funding resource. The process starts by identifying a project, then choosing the location and vendors. He suggests working with an active committee of neighbors. The City will take an active interest in the vendor selection and requires multiple bids. Be mindful of the pay back process and cost before getting too far into the planning, as this is critical to a successful matching grant effort.

NEIGHBORHOOD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Saint Petersburg Garden Club is having its annual Flea Market February 27 through February 29, 2020, in Coconut Park, 505 Sunset Dr. South. [Here is a link to their Facebook page.](#)
- Historic Roser Park Neighborhood Association is having a tour of homes on March 28, 2020. Here is a [link to information on its Web site.](#)
- Crossroads Area Homeowners Association is having Executive Director Rui Farias from the Saint Petersburg Museum of History as a speaker at the meeting on Monday, Feb 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Petersburg Public Library, 6700 8th Avenue North.
- On Sunday February 23, 2020, Skyway Marina District is having [Mardi Gras at the Mall](#) at the Skyway Mall on 34th Street South.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Audit Committee is completing the audit for the 2nd half of 2019.
- Codes had no announcements.
- Land Development had no announcements
- Leadership 2020 students were recognized. Going into week 7. Duke Energy and the Rays are sponsors of Leadership.
- Membership had several renewals tonight.
- Public Safety Committee and President Joern are meeting with SPPD February 20, 2020. The Committee Chair would also like to attend NA meetings starting in April - contact A. J. Rodriguez (public.safety@stpetecona.org) to set it up.
- Multi-Modal Transportation reports that the City is meeting with four potential scooter providers.

CONA PRESIDENT UPDATES:

- On Saturday, April 4, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Historic Williams Park CONA will be participating in Earth Day. Any CONA member NA is invited to join CONA at its table. Contact President Joern (president@stpetecona.org) in advance to participate. There is no cost.
- Saint Petersburg Museum of History has a future exhibit entitled “Building the Sunshine City” which will display old plat maps. CONA is considering a private event at the Museum for \$10.00 for CONA members and \$15.00 for non members.
- Mayor’s Neighborhood Awards are on March 3, 2020, at the Shuffleboard Courts beginning at 6:00 p.m. Nominations closed February 14, 2020. Still accepting reservations.
- The last Coffee with a Cop had disappointing attendance. Next event will probably be May 12, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. CONA is meeting tomorrow with SPPD to discuss whether adjustments are needed.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Vicki Shuman and seconded by Judy Landon and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Attendance: 46

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Stephen M. Waters, Secretary