Minutes of the Meeting of the

Neighborhood Council of St. Augustine, Inc.

April 7, 2019

52 N. St. Augustine Blvd.

3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Kathy Schirmacher (SAUNA-Uptown), Melinda Rakoncay (Nelmar Terrace), Sharon Green (Lincolnville), Barbara Brottman (Lincolnville), Van Cogley (Flagler Model Land), Jeanette Berk (Treasurer of the NC and SANDS), Martha Mickler (Spanish Quarter), Nancy Pellicer (Spanish Quarter), Michael Alfieri (Greater Fullerwood), Debbie Wicker (Lighthouse), Mark LeMaire (Lighthouse), Matthew Shaffer (Nelmar Terrace). ABSENT: Old City South, SARNA/Ravenswood.

The meeting was called to order by President Melinda Rakoncay at 3:10 p.m. Thanks to Jeanette Berk for hosting in her lovely Davis Shores home.

All delegates were asked to sign in. All delegates present were asked to forward any updates in their roster to Kathy Schirmacher at [sauna.uptown@gmail.com](mailto:sauna.uptown@gmail.com). Delegates were reminded that any change in an Association’s roster or bylaws needs to be communicated to both Secretary Kathy Schirmacher and Treasurer Jeanette Berk, for IRS purposes.

The minutes of the January 13, 2019 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve the minutes as written (Jeanette Berk) and seconded (Van Cogley). APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Treasurer’s report showed a balance in the account of $2,280.11 as of March 31. A motion was made to approve the Treasuer's report (Martha Mickler) and seconded (Melinda Rakoncay). The Treasurer’s Report was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Delegates discussed the issue of short term rentals and how the state is attempting to remove all local control over these properties. It was suggested that the Neighborhood Council write a letter to our State representatives encouraging them to support the "home rule" ordinances that are currently in place. Sharon Green volunteered to draft a letter and Matt Shaffer will review it for Melinda's signature on behalf of all Neighborhood Associations, with a copy to all City commissioners. A copy of the draft letter will be distributed to all delegates prior to its being sent. A motion was made to draft and approve a letter to be sent to our state representatives (Jeanette Berk) and seconded (Mark LeMaire). The motion was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Mission Nombre de Dios upzoning request was next on the agenda. It most directly impacts SAUNA, Nelmar Terrace and Fullerwood, all of whom have frontage on San Marco Avenue, but the impact of this project will be felt city-wide. The Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) seems to be holding against upzoning. If the zoning change is allowed, it will run with the property in perpetuity. A group of residents has formed a group to work against this project called SaveStA2020 and may be contacted at SaveStA2020@gmail.com. An online petition is circulating with the vast majority of signatories being against this project. The petition will eventually be submitted to Bishop Felipe Estevez of the Diocese.

Before the zoning change can be considered, it will necessitate changing the Comprehensive Plan. The next Comp Plan Workshops are scheduled for April 16 and April 25. Details can be found on the City website at [www.CityStAug.com/CompPlan2040](http://www.citystaug.com/CompPlan2040). Amy Skinner, the Deputy Planning and Building Director, is also available to address meetings of individual Associations or merchant groups about the Comp Plan. She may be reached at (904) 209-4320. Melinda will send a letter to the PZB on behalf of the Neighborhood Council expressing our view on this upzoning.

Mark LeMaire, from the Lighthouse neighborhood, is also the Senior Program Director for the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida. Grants are available from the foundation for all sorts of neighborhood projects, such as resident focused seminars, newsletters, community gardens, neighborhood clean-ups, beautification projects, neighborhood activities and other projects. Please contact Mark at the Foundation office with any questions you may have. Mark said the Foundation is more than willing to work with neighborhoods on all sort of projects for up to $1,500.00 in value. The cash award is paid up front, not reimbursed at the completion of the project. Mark's contact information is marklemaire@jaxcf.org, or 904.225.7207.

Reports from the Neighborhoods

Flagler Model Land - The final meeting of the year was held in March and new officers were elected. They participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade. A neighborhood social is scheduled for next weekend on St. Andrews Court. They will no longer have their own website as funding is not available.

Greater Fullerwood - Elections were held in February and new officers were elected. A neighborhood yard sale is planned for the end of March. An Easter egg hunt is planned for April 13, and a block party will be held in October.

Lighthouse - They are dealing with some upzoning issues. Stanley Parish wants to rezone an area from RS-1 by the yacht club to allow boat slips for visiting yachts. A default parking area for the amphitheatre has been established on land owned by the State Park. The park and the city are working together to try to prevent any parking problems and provide shuttle service to and from the amphitheatre.

Lincolnville - New officers were elected on March 13. A grant for $2,500 has been received for native plants to be installed in Hayling Park. They are working on setting up more social events at Dog Rose and the Corazon, and are trying to get more neighborhood residents involved.

Nelmar Terrace - A spring picnic was held yesterday. The May Street intersection project seems to be taking forever and is behind schedule. A City of St. Augustine grant was awarded to provide sign toppers for street signs.

SANDS (North Davis Shores) - Mobility issues continue to be at the forefront. There have been some changes in business ownerships, and Hoptinger's may become a breakfast/lunch venue, which everyone in the neighborhood is very happy about!

SAUNA (Uptown) - The Mission Nombre de Dios project plans continue to be the main concern. A general meeting will be scheduled sometime in the future.

Spanish Quarter - Nothing new to report on the Tolomato parking lot project. The many bars in the district have been in the forefront of the issues of nightlife distrubances. New officers will be elected in December, and a social event is being planned for July. Martha Mickler is on the Flagler College Town & Gown committee, which will be meeting on April 11. Flagler wants to share its strategic plan with the community.

Old City South - Report submitted via email, as no delegate was present. New officers were elected at the recent spring neighborhood meeting. No other issues were reported.

SARNA/Ravenswood – No report.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, July 14, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at Melinda's house, 86 Magnolia Ave.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Schirmacher

Secretary