

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Neighborhood Council of St. Augustine, Inc.
October 20, 2019
31 Spanish Street
3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Kathy Schirmacher (SAUNA-Uptown), Matthew Shaffer (Nelmar Terrace), Sharon Green (Lincolntonville), Van Cogley (Flagler Model Land), Jeanette Berk (SANDS, Treasurer of the NC), Martha Mickler (Spanish Quarter), Nancy Pellicer (Spanish Quarter), Nancy Bertogli (Greater Fullerwood), Debbie Wicker (Lighthouse). ABSENT: Old City South, SARNA/Ravenswood.

The meeting was called to order by our hostess, Nancy Pellicer. Thanks to Nancy for hosting in her lovely home.

Secretary Kathy Schirmacher will check the NC website for any updates in officer assignments.

The minutes of the July 14, 2019 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve the minutes as written (Jeanette Berk) and seconded (Nancy Pellicer). **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Treasurer's report showed an account balance of \$1,930.11 after payment of \$350.00 for annual website fees.

The lecture series to be funded by a grant from the Community Foundation was discussed. Nancy Pellicer will follow up with Flagler College on the availability of the Koger Gamache theatre as our venue. Melinda had contacted David Nolan, Charles Tingley and Susan Parker. David's participation has not been confirmed, Mr. Tingley advised that he would not be available, and Susan Parker will be able to participate. Once the available dates at Koger Gamache are finalized, we can firm up our participants. Other possible lecturers might be Beth Rogero or Tracey Upchurch.

The new nightlife ordinance is still under review by the city. If any downtown businesses wish to remain open after midnight until 2:00 a.m., an additional licensing fee is being proposed. The city accepted public comment at a public meeting and is evaluating options, as well as any other restrictions such as no amplified music.

Nancy Pellicer was concerned about tree cutting and removal in the city. The new St. Johns County guidelines undercut the city's tree ordinance and the ability to issue permits and fines. Ultimately, the property owners are responsible for the trees on their property. Nancy Bertogli told the attendees that arborist Chuck Lippi gave a presentation at their last meeting, and was extremely well received. Other associations might want to contact him for future presentations.

The Short Term Rental Committee presented their recommendations to the city, and we are now waiting for the City Attorney's input and approval. There apparently was no time at the last City Commission meeting for further discussion of this item and it was postponed until a later meeting date.

Items about future land use discussed at the September 24 PZB workshop are actually covered in the Comprehensive Plan, according to PZB member Jon DePreter. Video of the workshop should be available on the city's new website if anyone wants to watch it.

Sharon Green mentioned that there have been issues regarding improper student behavior at house parties in Lincolnville. Dr. Joyner is addressing procedures to regulate student house parties to protect both the students and the neighborhoods.

Reports from the Neighborhoods

Nelmar Terrace - Not too much going on right now. Street sign toppers have been installed. A holiday party is planned for early December.

Spanish Quarter - An historical marker paid for through a Community Foundation grant will be installed, highlighting the area historically known as San Felipe where many Minorcan settlers lived. Charles Tingley at the Historical Society Library is helping with the design and text of the marker. A draft will have to be approved by the City. A location for the marker has yet to be determined.

Lincolnville - An historical marker paid for through a Community Foundation grant will be installed at Dr. Robert B. Hayling Park at the southern end of Riberia Street. Warren Clark is assisting with the design of the marker. Native plants which had been planted in the park are not thriving, and procedures will have to be established to insure their survival. Perhaps a Master Gardener could advise on this matter, or the Eagle Scouts might like to take this on as a project. A doggie costume parade is planned for Saturday, October 27 starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Galimore Center. A \$10.00 donation is requested for each entry, which will support a neutering program for the many feral cats in the area.

SANDS (North Davis Shores) - Some residents at the end of Flagler Boulevard beyond Comares want a dock to be built over what is city-owned land. It is unlikely that permission will be granted, as everyone feels very strongly about preventing removal of access to public waterfront land.

Flagler Model Land - A new board was elected in September. Van Cogley presented a new roster to the secretary. Jeanette Berk reminded Van that signature authorities on the association's bank account will therefore have to be updated. At their last meeting they hosted a speaker from "Save Guana Now" as well as Chief Barry Fox. The next meeting will be on November 4, with the St. Johns Riverkeeper as guest speaker. Len Weeks will be a guest speaker at a future meeting, detailing the history of the "Nights of Lights." A Christmas party and caroling is planned for December. The neighborhood will once again participate in the Celtic Festival's St. Patrick's Day Parade in March. Perhaps other associations would also like to join in, representing the Neighborhood Council as a whole. A social event is also planned for March 28. They have decided to drop their existing website and will only use the NC website instead. They also send out a monthly newsletter to the neighborhood.

Lighthouse - The main issue affecting the neighborhood is Stanley Parish's donation of a residential piece of land adjacent to the yacht club to the City of St. Augustine for use as a youth sailing center. The property will be leased to the city for 99 years at \$1.00 per year. While the neighbors are not against the youth sailing program, they are very concerned about rezoning a residential lot to government use (GU). The city has accepted Mr. Parish's offer, but ultimately they need to apply to the PZB to permit the zoning change. If the change is denied, the property will revert to a passive park, or, if that fails, ownership will return to the Parish family. Adjacent property owners are concerned about the impact of the zoning

change on property values and traffic. Other stipulations have yet to be specified. In other matters, a community garden is also being established next to the R.B. Hunt soccer field.

Greater Fullerwood - The passing of long-time resident Herbie Wiles was noted. A block party is being planned for October 27 in Rainey Park. Thanks to a grant, again from the Community Foundation, a "Gnome Door" decorating contest is going on, where residents and children decorate small wooden "gnome-sized" doors and display them in their yards. Prizes have been solicited from local businesses and will be awarded at the block party. Nancy Bertogli was praised not only for her creative idea, but also for compiling data from all the associations for the short term rental survey.

SAUNA (Uptown) - The Mission Nombre de Dios project plans seem to be on hold for the present, but we expect they will become active once again. The Shrine has been officially designated as a National Marian Shrine (to the Virgin Mary) by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Other than that, things are very quiet in the neighborhood. It is uncertain whether or not SAUNA will host its "Uptown Lights" contest this year, as the main organizers from past years have moved or are unable to help.

Old City South - No report.

SARNA/Ravenswood – No report.

Our next regular meeting will be on Sunday, January 19, 2020. This will be our formal Annual Meeting. Location will be determined. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Schirmacher
Secretary