

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Neighborhood Council of St. Augustine, Inc.
May 24, 2020
via ZOOM
3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Kathy Schirmacher (SAUNA-Uptown), Melinda Rakoncay (Nelmar Terrace), Sharon Green (Lincolntown), Jeanette Berk (SANDS, Treasurer of the NC), Martha Mickler (Spanish Quarter), Ron Mickler (Spanish Quarter), Nancy Pellicer (Spanish Quarter), Jim Budka (Greater Fullerwood), Nancy Bertogli (Greater Fullerwood), Burry Gowen (Old City South), Gail Crocetta (Old City South).

ABSENT: Ravenswood, Lighthouse, Flagler Model Land.

The meeting was called to order by President Melinda Rakoncay at 3:07 p.m. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually via ZOOM. After a few small issues were resolved, the meeting proceeded. (Kathy Schirmacher could hear everyone, but no one could see or hear her since she has an old, outdated pc with no microphone or camera!)

The minutes of the January 26, 2020 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve the minutes as written. MOVED: Nancy Bertogli, SECONDED: Jeanette Berk. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Treasurer's report showed an account balance of \$3,084.11 as of 04/30/20.

The Community Foundation Grant enabled the Council to present three historical lectures on three of the city's historic neighborhoods: the Town Plan (Susan Parker), Lincolntown (David Nolan), and Nelmar Terrace and Fullerwood in North City (Leslee Keys). We hope to be able to do programs on Flagler Model Land, and the Abbott Tract/North City/Uptown areas next year. It was suggested that the City might be willing to do more in the area of historic neighborhood tourism, not only for the National Register Districts, but also Davis Shores, the Lighthouse neighborhood and West Augustine.

Melinda raised the issue of whether or not the Council would hold a candidates' forum this year, as it depends on how many candidates there will be for the open seats on the City Commission. As of now, Mayor Tracy Upchurch is running for a second term, unopposed, and Roxanne Horvath is also running again, unopposed. Leanna Freeman and Barbara Blonder will be running for Leanna's seat. Once the final filing deadline has passed, we will have more details and will be able to make a final determination at our next meeting in August. Questions for the candidates will need to be formulated. Jeanette Berk volunteered to check into reserving the Galimore Center for a date around the first week in October. She will also check into the video requirements, and will work with Jim Budka on the audio set up for the program. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the Forum, please let Melinda know.

Only a few of the Neighborhood Associations have been able to update their Council website pages. WordPress was recently updated, which was handled by the web designer as part of our annual maintenance package. Burry Gowen will check with Cabe about a few quirks that have been brought to his attention and will try to get some recommendations.

Nancy Bertogli introduced Jim Budka, the newly elected President of Fullerwood. Jim gave a brief personal introduction, touching on his very interesting past job history and experience.

Reports from the Neighborhoods

Flagler Model Land - No report.

Greater Fullerwood - Elections were held in February and Jim Budka was elected President.

Lighthouse - No report.

Lincolnville - Their spring event had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. Everything is on hold. They will be holding elections via Zoom, but for now they are also on hold.

Nelmar Terrace - Their spring picnic was cancelled, due to Covid-19. On the first Sunday in May, a "neighborhood walking social" took place from 4-6 p.m., with neighbors walking the streets and visiting with people on their porches. Barriers currently in place for the May Street drainage project will eventually be removed, but the project is ongoing. The City will be installing new curbing once the project is completed. The new "peanut" intersection appears to be functioning well.

Old City South - Elections were held via Survey Monkey! And, as a result, they had more participants than ever before! The Board will meet and will appoint officers via Zoom sometime in the near future.

SANDS (North Davis Shores) - People are doing a lot of walking and bike riding. Whole families are out together, which is a nice change from too much automobile traffic! Many are enjoying cocktail hour in their front yards.

SARNA/Ravenswood – No report.

SAUNA (Uptown) - Nothing to report, as all is very quiet uptown.....

Spanish Quarter - Lots of people are walking and biking, again, a nice change for the better. But traffic is starting to ramp up again. Not many face masks have been visible on St. George St. Ron Mickler gave a report on the status of the historic marker about the "Little San Felipe" Menorcan neighborhood from North Spanish Street to Cuna Street. The marker will be mounted on the Mickler's brick wall. The marker was made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, and Bill Lazar from the St. Johns Housing Partnership also helped to facilitate the process. Approval was received at the last HARB meeting, and Susan Parker has agreed to check the verbiage for accuracy before the final marker is made.

Our next regular meeting will be on Sunday, August 30th at 3:00 p.m., again via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Schirmacher
Secretary