

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Neighborhood Council of St. Augustine, Inc.
August 30, 2020
via ZOOM
3:00 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order by President Melinda Rakoncay at 3:09 p.m. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was again held virtually via ZOOM.

The minutes of the May 24, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Kathy Schirmacher noted two small typos to be corrected. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written. **MOVED**: Burry Gowen, **SECONDED**: Van Cogley. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The Treasurer's report showed an account balance of \$3,059.11 as of 07/31/20, reflecting an expense of \$25.00 for a web domain fee. An invoice for additional website fees is expected shortly in the amount of approx. \$350.00.

The candidate forum was discussed. Various options were considered, including holding an in-person event, organizing a Zoom event through Burry's subscription, allowing a maximum of 200 participants, or an informational newsletter to be sent out to all the associations via email. The four participants would be Roxanne Horvath (Incumbent) and Wade Ross (Challenger) for Seat One, and Leanna Freeman (incumbent) and Barbara Blonder (Challenger) for Seat Two. It was ultimately agreed that the best and safest way was to send out an email newsletter to all neighborhoods, with each candidate's responses to two or three questions. Questions will be selected from responses received from an email request sent to the member Associations. A forum committee was established, consisting of Melinda Rakoncay, Dave Budka and Sharon Green. A committee meeting will be called as soon as possible after the responses are received.

Melinda reminded all present that, even though Covid-19 presents many difficulties, it is still important for each Association to hold at least one annual meeting and elections every year, either remotely or via Survey Monkey or at an outdoor venue, if appropriate. Each Association should review their by-laws and make the necessary changes to allow remote meetings, should their by-laws only permit in-person voting.

Melinda also asked that each Association have their own email address, and to set one up if there is currently none. Emails for each Association should be forwarded to Melinda within the next few weeks at www.ncstaug.org for posting on the NC website, so residents know how to contact their neighborhood association.

Reports from the Neighborhoods

Flagler Model Land - Lots of home repairs going on! No meetings have been held recently, except for Dr. Joyner's Zoom meeting about Flagler reopening for the fall semester. They received a grant to produce 2,500 more walking tour brochures, which are distributed to local B&B's and also at the site of the historical marker. It is probable that they will retain the existing Board, with membership approval, as no live meetings are planned. Burry asked Van to forward information about getting the brochures printed up. Van said he would ask their designer to contact Burry.

Greater Fullerwood - Welcome letters and neighborhood information were sent out to 20 new residents. Nancy Bertogli also printed up business cards for the Association. Melinda mentioned that there is a brochure produced by the City which should be available on the City's website with information about City services, which might be included in future welcome packets. A "porch festival" is planned for October 25, with area musicians performing 30 minute sets on their front porches, similar to the Lincolnville Porch Fest. People can stroll from house to house or bring a chair to sit and listen, or even just drive by in their car. The triangle park has been officially renamed the Herbie & Annette Wiles Park.

Lighthouse - Volunteers are working on the neighborhood garden, to be located north of the R.B. Hunt soccer field. The City has hooked up water service. A meeting will be scheduled with the Yacht Club, to be held outside on their deck, to present new plans for their proposed sailing center.

Lincolnville - A meeting was held along with the Lincolnville CRA. Reuben Franklin from City staff was present. A survey had been taken asking about sidewalks to be installed using some of the CRA money, but that idea was rejected as no one was interested in sidewalks. A general meeting was held last week, but so far no volunteers have stepped forward to be on the Board. Sharon remains hopeful that candidates will come forward. Rick Spence had contacted Leanna Freeman and Barbara Blonder about appearing in a Q&A forum, and both were enthusiastic about the idea.

Nelmar Terrace - Everything is pretty quiet right now. They are checking with the City about when the permanent new curbing will be installed along May Street, as part of the FDOT improvements. Construction is ongoing, mostly at night, which is very disturbing to the neighborhood, but there are no estimates as to when it will be completed.

Old City South - It's been pretty quiet for the past six months. They keep in touch via email. Horses and carriages and speeders continue to be issues on St. George Street. X. Pellicer from City staff is looking into those issues. A Board meeting will be held in the near future via Zoom.

SANDS (North Davis Shores) - Businesses, bars and restaurants are opening back up along Anastasia Boulevard. No meetings are planned at the moment.

SARNA/Ravenswood - No report.

SAUNA (Uptown) - An email request for volunteers to serve on the SAUNA board has been distributed to the neighborhood. We are hopeful that volunteers will come forward, as none of the current Board wishes to stand for re-election. If no volunteers come forward, we will need to address further actions to be taken.

Spanish Quarter - Nothing new to report. Tourism is rather scanty. Flagler students are back on campus. Renovations planned for the north end of Spanish and Cuna Streets, plus the Tolomato lot, are currently on hold.

Our next regular meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m., again via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Schirmacher
Secretary