

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Neighborhood Council of St. Augustine, Inc.  
October 18, 2020  
via ZOOM  
3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Kathy Schirmacher (SAUNA-Uptown), Melinda Rakoncay (Nelmar Terrace), Sharon Green (Lincolnvillle), Roger White (SANDS), Nancy Pellicer (Spanish Quarter), Nancy Bertogli (Greater Fullerwood), Burry Gowen (Old City South), Van Cogley (Flagler Model Land), Debbie Wicker (Lighthouse), Mary O'Donoghue (Lincolnvillle). ABSENT: Ravenswood/SARNA.

The meeting was called to order by President Melinda Rakoncay at 3:02 p.m. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was again held virtually via ZOOM.

The minutes of the August 30, 2020 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written. MOVED: Melinda Rakoncay, SECONDED: Nancy Bertogli. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer Jeanette Berk was absent. Her Treasurer's report showed an account balance of \$2,709.11 as of 09/30/20, reflecting an expense of \$350.00 to Bold City for website fees.

The candidate forum newsletter was mailed out to all Association delegates on September 27, for distribution to their members.

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. Please forward all updated officer lists to Melinda, Kathy and Jeanette for their files.

Burry felt that we need to continue to educate the neighborhoods on the city's flooding and mitigation issues. He suggested each NA could invite City Manager John Reagan and Reuben Franklin to a meeting for questions and answers. Fullerwood has asked their members to provide detail of flooding and other issues, and will set up a meeting with just their neighborhood and city representatives.

A resiliency committee is being established by the COSA with Commissioner John Valdes heading it up. Neighborhoods are welcome to submit ideas for committee members to Mr. Valdes.

Still to be determined is whether the Council will be able to sponsor another lecture series like the one we did early this year, perhaps focusing on zoning, HARB, the city budget, mobility, and other issues of importance.

Melinda will now be forwarding the agendas for all city boards to the Associations for distribution to their members, to make sure everyone is informed about upcoming presentations.

## Reports from the Neighborhoods

Flagler Model Land - No membership meeting has been held recently. They had their first board meeting in September. No activities are planned through the rest of the year. Election of officers will take place at a February meeting. Flagler College has acquired the Cowan Financial building on Malaga Street for classroom use. This should not have much of an impact on the neighborhood.

Greater Fullerwood - All events are currently on hold. However, 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. CDC guidelines will be followed. A formal dedication is planned for the Herbie and Annette Wiles triangle park. Election of officers will be held in February 2021.

Lighthouse - A meeting was held last Tuesday with the Yacht Club, held outside on their deck. Their plans go before the PZB in December. The new plans for their proposed sailing center were presented, and another meeting may be held in November to review their dock plans. It was proposed to name the neighborhood park after Maria Andreu, the first female lighthouse keeper. Speeding vehicles are still a problem in the neighborhood. It was suggested that that the cost of speeding tickets be posted to perhaps deter some of this traffic.

Lincolnville - Two town hall type meetings were held via Zoom with candidates for the City Commission: Leeana Freeman and Barbara Blonder, and Roxanne Horvath and Wade Ross. A general meeting is scheduled for October 22. The CRA representative will be in attendance. Mary O'Donoghue was introduced as the new candidate for President. The Veritas School continues to be an issue.

Nelmar Terrace - No meetings are scheduled from now through Christmas. Elections were held via Survey Monkey. Melinda asked people to try to come up with ideas for how to get together safely during these times. The construction on May Street continues to disrupt the neighborhood during nighttime construction. The turn radius on some of the curbs in the "peanut" intersection needs to be redone. Melinda is also doing the annual update of the Nelmar Terrace directory for residents.

Old City South - Elections were held via Survey Monkey, with a great response. The board met via Zoom in early October. A Zoom meeting about flooding in the neighborhood will be scheduled. Horses and carriages and speeding trucks (which are not permitted) continue to be issues on St. George Street and Cordova Street. X. Pellicer from City staff will arrange for placement of a digital speeding sign on St. George Street. Burry asked both Nancy and Sharon to allow him to contact their social directors to find out how they organized their respective porch festivals, as this is something OCS might like to do.

SANDS (North Davis Shores) - The association has been basically dormant since the start of Covid-19. An annual meeting is being planned for November, which may be held outdoors in Ogelthorpe Park, or else via Survey Monkey. STR zoning continues to be an issue.

SARNA/Ravenswood - No report.

SAUNA (Uptown) - The nominating committee met this past week, and we are attempting to identify and persuade people to run for offices in SAUNA. We hope to be able to hold elections prior to the end of the year, either outdoors and in person or via Survey Monkey, but that still remains to be seen. We're hanging in there....!

Spanish Quarter - "Nights of Lights" is starting one week earlier this year. Regular officer elections are planned for November. Probably the same officers will be confirmed for next year. The historic plaque about "Little San Felipe" should be ready for installation by year end. The Tolomato Parking Lot project is on hold until at least next year.

Other Items for Discussion

Van Cogley spoke about his concerns for the non-enforcement of State motor vehicle statutes regarding modified muffler systems, and the additional noise they create. While we discussed the option of writing a letter to Governor DeSantis, it was generally agreed that it would be better to address this issue with local traffic enforcement.

Melinda requested that all names of candidates for officer positions on the Council be submitted by no later than December 31st.

Our annual meeting was set for Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., again via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Schirmacher  
Secretary