

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

November 2005

President's Message

By Karl Nurse

We have good reason to be proud of our efforts in the recent City elections. CONA met in January and set an agenda of issues designed to improve our neighborhoods. We lobbied city hall and identified the issue that we could pass quickly. The Green Cities program, which was a CONA idea, passed in the summer and will result in a considerable number of changes in policies and practices over the rest of the decade. The timing for another energy crunch could not have been better.

We set community policing and a series of quality of life issues as our top priorities. We should feel good that at every speaking event during the campaign, citizens asked candidates for their stands on supporting community policing, filling the ranks of police officers and enforcing a variety of quality of life laws. Candidates consistently promised to push our agenda in the next four years.

The City Council debated our issues and the CONA newsletter reported a series of City Council votes so neighborhoods could know who was helping us once it got down to votes. We intend to continue to push our agenda in 2006. We will go through a similar brainstorming session in January and vote on priorities in February. I believe we have laid a foundation during this election session that will mandate that City Hall continues to place a high priority on the issues that matter to neighborhoods. Congratulations for all the hard work. The candidates heard you loud and clear.

Our new City Council Member, Jeff Danner, will join us at the November meeting to thank us for his victory. Jeff has a long history as a neighborhood activist and needs no education in the issues that matter to us!

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, November 16, 2005

The **SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.**
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Armanda Lampley,
Pinellas County Connection Center
Nominating Committee • Green Cities

Featured Neighborhood:
Historic Roser Park

On the inside

Green Cities Expo	2
Nominating Committee	2
CONA Leadership	3
County Connection Center	4
Member Neighborhoods	5
Featured Neighborhood	6
CONA Minutes	7-8
CONA Officers	8



Green Cities Expo 2006

By Steve Plice

Karl Nurse suggested that we explore the idea of a CONA sponsored **GREEN CITIES EXPOSITION** for next year. The idea would be to rent the coliseum for a weekend. We could organize an event that focuses on energy conservation, pollution prevention, environmental preservation, and water management.

We could invite companies, such as Progress Energy, Home Depot and Lowes, to rent booths to showcase products that help further the goals of the Green Cities project. In addition, we could invite the City, the County, Tampa Bay Water, SWFWMD, and a long list of other organizations to prepare displays and presentations for the exposition.

The project is still very preliminary but everyone we have spoken to is very supportive. The City of St. Petersburg is working to become a sponsor of this event. Mayor Baker expressed enthusiasm for the idea and Councilman Kriseman is working with Mike Dove to determine how the City can financially support our efforts. Progress Energy has told us that they, too would like to sponsor the program.

County Commissioner Ken Welch is very supportive and will work county administration and the Board of County Commissioners to explore County participation in the program.

If we decide to go forward, this will be a large and ambitious project for CONA to host. To do it right, we will need a budget of \$25,000 to \$30,000. Based on the enthusiasm expressed by everyone with whom we have discussed the project, we can obtain the necessary financial support. We will discuss the Green Cities Expo at our November Board Meeting

CONA Nominating Committee

CONA elects the officers serving on the executive committee in December of Each year. Our Bylaws provide that nominations be completed at the November meeting in preparation for the December election. The Nominating Committee solicits candidates and accepts additional nominations from the floor at the November Meeting. The Committee then prepares a ballot and conducts an election during the December meeting.

This year's Nominating Committee is Steve Plice, Christine Page, Annie McWilliams and Ed Van.

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CONA Leadership 2006

CONA Leadership 2006 classes begin in January. This will be the fourteenth year for the program. Applications for the 2006 CONA Leadership Program may be downloaded from the CONA website.

www.conastpete.org



Connect with your county government.

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Email: alampley@pinellascounty.org

Armanda Lampley, Manager of the Pinellas County Southeast County Connection Center, will speak at the November CONA Board Meeting.

The County Connection Centers are designed to help residents get answers and find help concerning County Programs. Armanda will tell us about the Connection Centers and how we can work more effectively with our County Government.

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As people discover the Roser Park neighborhood they invariably remark, why this doesn't look like Florida. The unique topography, extensive use of brick, rusticated block and varied architectural styles cause people to say San Francisco or Atlanta.

We are a relatively small neighborhood between Fourth and Ninth Streets South and Seventh and Eleventh Avenues South. There are approximately seventy residences. Developed in the early teens, most lots were built on by 1926. Roser Park became Historic Roser Park in 1987, our city's first designated historic district. Ten years later, Roser Park became St. Petersburg's first nationally designated historic district.

Today Roser Park is a very convenient place to live, adjacent to I-275, one block from Tampa Bay, shopping, hospitals, and museums. However, when the developer, Charles M. Roser purchased the land for his development (1911), it was outside the city limits and he had to lay the brick roads to reach his new homes. Unlike other developers of the time, Mr. Roser completed his development with no two homes alike. There are stately Colonial Revivals, Prairie Styles, Mediterranean Revival, and various bungalows. Roser Park's heart is the park with Booker Creek meandering through it. Stately royal palms and regal old oaks are mixed with a variety of newly planted flowering trees. Footbridges, planters, and a gazebo grace the park too.

One of the first neighborhood grant projects was to recreate the arbors along the steps of the Ronald McDonald House (the largest in Florida.) Other grant projects included historic lighting, signage, additional landscaping, and our unique outdoor museum. The Historic Outdoor

Museum of Roser Park has won several awards, it was created by long time resident, Ron Motyka. Currently it features twenty-eight markers describing the neighborhood's features and history. Please come and enjoy!

Historic Roser Park has a very active association. We are working on our second Art Festival and third House Tour. We have several committees working on monthly socials, park clean-ups, and many active members. Our porch parties are held on the third Friday evening of month and are proving to be very popular. Monthly board meetings are held at Midtown Sundries the first Wednesday of the month. Our general membership meetings are held at the Resource Center at the SW corner of Roser Park Drive and Fourth Street the third Thursday of the months of January, March, June, and September. Luminaries line the roads in the neighborhood the Saturday before Christmas. Our holiday lighting theme is blue & white. They give the neighborhood a magical glow.

Coming soon! Several big projects are in the works. The Roser Park corridor will give a long overdue major facelift. Booker Creek will be opened up where it goes underground along Ingleside Avenue South (old name 11th Avenue.) The park system will be extended (joining of Woodbrook Park and Roser Parks.)

What's in our future? While we believe in the beauty of our past and the fellowship of the present we will continue working to preserve the best for the future.



Land Development Regulation Update

By Steve Plice

Bob Jeffrey reports that agreements have been worked out between the development interests and the Downtown Neighborhood Association concerning new Land Development Regulations for the downtown area. According to Bob, the new proposals will include height limits. Bob Jeffrey plans to present a preview of the proposals at the January 2006 CONA meeting.

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2005 CONA Membership

Seventy-two neighborhood associations have joined CONA for the calendar year 2005. This is an impressive record membership for CONA. Many thanks to St Petersburg's vibrant and active neighborhood associations.

Tom Killian has done an outstanding job as membership chair for this year's.

Albert Whitted Airport Advisory Comm.
Asian Family And Community Center,
Americana Cove
Azalea Neighborhood Association, Inc
Bahama Shores Homeowners Association
Barclay Estates Homeowner's Association
Bartlett Park Neighborhood Association
Bayou Highlands Neighborhood Association
Bayway Isles Home Owner's Club, Inc.
Broadwater Civic Association
Causeway Isles Neighborhood Assoc.
Central Oak Park
Coquina Key Property Owner's Assoc
Crescent Heights Neighborhood Assoc
Crescent Lake Neighborhood Assoc.
Crossroads Area Homeowners Association
Disston Heights Civic Association
Downtown Neighborhood Association
Driftwood Property Owner's Association, Inc
Eagle Crest Civic Association
Edgemoor Neighborhood Association
Euclid Heights Neighborhood Association
Euclid/St. Paul Neighborhood Association
Fossil Park Neighborhood Association
Fourth Street Business Association
Garden Manor Neighborhood Association
Grand Central Business District
Greater Pinellas Point Civic Association
Greater Woodlawn Neighborhood Assoc.
Harbordale Neighborhood Association
Harris Park Neighborhood Association
Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Assoc.
Historic Old Northeast
Historic Park Street Neighborhood Assoc.
Historic Roser Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Historic Uptown Neighborhood Association

Holiday Park Home Owner's Association
Isle del Sol Home Owner's Association
Jungle Prada Neighborhood Association
Jungle Terrace Civic Association
Lake Euclid Neighborhood Association
Lakewood Estates Civic Association
Lakewood Terrace Neighborhood Assoc.
Magnolia Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
Mangrove Bayou Neighborhood Assoc.
Maximo Moorings Civic Association
Meadowlawn Neighborhood Association
Mel-Tan Heights Neighborhood Assoc
Municipal Bayside Marina
North Kenwood Neighborhood Assoc.
Northeast Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Old Pasadena Neighborhood Association
Old Southeast Neighborhood Association-
Placido Bayou Community Assoc.
Ponce De Leon Neighborhood Assoc.
Riviera Bay Civic Association
Riviera Bay Subdiv.Home Owner's Assoc.
Sterning Manor-Brighton Bay Neighborhood
Association
Shore Acres Civic Association, Inc
Snell Isle Property Owner's Assoc.
34th. Street Business Association
Tropical Shores Neighborhood Assoc.
Twin Brooks Neighborhood Association
Tyrone Landings Neighborhood Association
Venetian Isles Home Owner's Assoc.
Westminster Heights Neighborhood Association
Wildwood Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
Winston Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Woodlawn Oaks Neighborhood Assoc
Yacht Club Estates Civic Assoc.

Continued from Page 8

- ◆ The Mayor won the coin toss to respond to the first question.
- ◆ Mayoral Question #1-
Should the Police be involved in codes enforcement and quality of life issues?
- ◆ Mayoral Question #2-
How should we limit the height of proposed new structures in our city?
- ◆ Mayoral Question #3-
How do you plan to provide for the homeless on coming cold night?
- ◆ Mayoral Question #4-
Should City Council have removed the protester barricades at Baywalk?
- ◆ Mayoral Question #5-
How can the city create more affordable housing for those of low income?
- ◆ Mayoral Question #6-
How can we protect the environmentally sensitive lands of our city?
- ◆ Mayoral Question #7-
Would you support a management review of the Police Department by an outside consultant?
- ◆ Mayoral Question #8-
Has the development of many new condominiums neglected the plight of our Homeless?
- ◆ Mayoral Question #9-
Should plans to build “Big Box” stores require review and inputs from possibly impacted local businesses?
- ◆ Mayoral Question #10-
How do you envision the future development of Williams Park?
- ◆ Mayoral Question #11-
Do you support, as a “Living Wage”, a minimum pay scale of \$10.00/Hr.?

The Mayoral Debate period concluded at 7:15 PM

Moderator Bob Dillinger then described the modified format applicable to the debate among the 8 candidates vying for 4 City Council posts, (District 2, 4, 6, and 8). The questions, submitted on cards, will be grouped in three areas- A). Housing and the Homeless [30 minutes], B). Policing and quality of life issues [30 minutes], and C). Open Forum for

any questions [20 minutes]. The sequence of questioning will rotate among the 4 contested district challengers.

- ◆ Council Candidate Question #A1.
What are your plans to provide more affordable Housing in our city?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #A2.
Should it be permitted to feed homeless people in our public parks?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #A3.
What measures do you support to protect our environmentally sensitive land?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #A4.
Do you support limitations on maximum height for proposed new structures?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #B1.
Do you support expanding the Police Department to provide for more Community Police Officers?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #B2.
When is the police practice of “Racial Profiling” acceptable?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #B3.
Should business interests be a factor in dealing with public protests?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #B4.
What are your views, pro & con, on Curbside Recycling?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #C1.
Would you support a ban on “Gay Pride” events in our city?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #C2.
Do you support a Wi-Fi Network for downtown? A free system?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #C3.
What measures can Council promote to improve Education in our city?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #C4.
Is there an effective plan for dealing with hurricanes?
- ◆ Council Candidate Question #C5.
What are your accomplishments that qualify you to run for City Council?

With an invitation to attend a similar Candidates Forum sponsored by CONA and The Chamber of Commerce at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club on October 27, Karl Nurse adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary



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CONA Newsletter Deadlines

Copy Deadline: 30th of each month.
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Editor: Steve Plice 344-3120

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MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center

October 19, 2005

Minutes by Conrad Weiser

[Secretary's forward: This joint meeting focused on a debate among candidates for the Mayor and for the City Council. There were no motions offered or voted upon. No calls for Old Business or New Business. Adhering to Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedures, the Minutes, under such circumstances need only record the time and place of the meeting, who chaired the gathering, and if a quorum was present.

Without disdain for promises or commitments of political candidates, the following Minutes will list only the questions posed to the debating panelists, not the details of their varied responses. Conrad Weiser, Secretary]

- ◆ CONA President Karl Nurse opened the meeting at 6:45 PM welcoming our honored guests and the overflow crowd of some 250 attending. He then introduced the Moderator for the evening, Bob Dillinger of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area.
- ◆ Bob then defined the format of our candidate's debates, in keeping with the League of Women Voters traditions.
 - There will be no opening or closing statements from the candidates.
 - All questions read by the Moderator will be from written cards collected before and during the meeting by CONA and LWVSPA reps.
 - All candidate responses will be limited to 1 minute with Timers displaying signs for a "15 Seconds Remain" warning and rising to conclude the candidates comments if overrunning.

Continued on Page 7

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