

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

November 2006

President's Message

We should all take a moment to pat ourselves on the back for the completion of the LDR's or land use regulations (zoning) after seven years of work! Sometime in 1999, a group in CONA began talking about the need to change the zoning rules to reflect the desires of the community. At about the same time, I was on the Planning Commission for the City and was frustrated by the steady need to rezone properties and grant variances because of zoning regulations that did not fit. Bob Jeffrey, who was in the planning department, put together a few maps which showed the square peg in a round hole problem that we had. I took these maps and explained the situation to about 50 neighborhood associations. And that was the start of a project that we completed last week!

The results of this project should be that we have zoning regulations that hundreds of citizens had a voice in writing, that received the support from the Mayor and City Council and that the Planning Commission, Environmental Development Commission and the Board of Adjustment have ownership of. The challenge now will be to break the habit of granting zoning changes and variances as a matter of course. The City leaders understand this is a cultural shift. However, old habits die hard and we may need to remind those in charge that with the new rules come an assumption of "NO" to variances.

Congratulations to everyone who worked on this. I believe many of our neighbors will be copying both the process we used and rules we wrote. These changes will have a significant positive impact for decades to come. Everyone who helped, please take a bow!

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, November 15, 2006

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

Agenda Items:

CONA Business – *Treasurer's Report*
CONA Spotlight – *Childs Park Neighborhood Association*
CONA Leadership Classes
Candidates for Rick Kriseman's Vacated City Council Seat
City & County Races for the Gold – *Green Cities Designation*
Updates – *PLGE*

Important Upcoming Event:

December 20 – President's Night and Salute to Mike Dove

On the inside

| | |
|---|-----|
| CONA 101-Your Neighborhood Plan | 2 |
| Neighborhood Nite at the Trop Recap | 2 |
| Leadership Program Application | 3-4 |
| Leadership Program Info..... | 5 |
| CONA Minutes | 6 |
| CONA Neighborhood Picnic Photos | 7 |
| Neighborhood Spotlight | 8 |
| CONA Board..... | 8 |



CONA 101 – Outreach Programs

By Tom Killian

Listed below are some good outreach programs that associations do for the holidays and throughout the year.

- A Jungle Terrace Chiropractor and JTCA member has started a walking program which starts at his office for blood pressure checks. Walkers then meet in the Wal-Mart parking lot and get on the Pinellas Trail for the walk.
- Bayou Highlands Association has a dessert social every December and gives a grocery check to a family in need for the holidays. They also have a neighborhood clean up where members went to neighbors who were unable to clean their yards and cleaned them.
- The Azalea Association gets local businesses to sponsor an outdoor movie night in Azalea Park. The cities TASCO Teens have a blow up screen and projector and run the program. I attended in October with 150 parents and children.
- Live Oaks Association runs a craft auction and book swap and has a person who reads to the children.
- Many associations run Halloween programs and have Christmas dinners for their members.
- Many associations collect canned food for the holidays and give it to the needy.
- The County has a special transportation program for handicapped individuals called DART. If you have neighbor who is wheelchairs bound or who cannot use public transportation this program offers the opportunity to get out into the world. The paperwork can be obtained thru the county. Please help someone in your neighborhood if they are in need.
- Our St. Petersburg Fire Department offers free smoke detectors and will also install them.
- St. Petersburg's Neighborhood Team helps homeowners with the painting of their homes.

Consider trying one of these programs or something entirely different to get people motivated and to create interest in joining your association. CONA would really like to hear about your new programs and their success.

Knowledge is powerful medicine.

As part of our commitment to community education, Edward White Hospital offers FREE seminars on a range of topics, including stroke awareness and diabetes. We also provide free Blood Pressure Screenings and more.

For more information, contact Aimee Bennett, RN, Director of Marketing at 727-328-6245.

- 2323 9th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33713
- 727-323-1111 – Main
- www.edwardwhitehospital.com



Call before you dig

It's not just another catchy slogan. It's the law.

1-800-432-4770



Learn more about the "Call Before You Dig" law at your next homeowner's association meeting.

Contact
Brian Dean at
(727) 669-5747

www.callsunshine.com

CONA Leadership 2007

**The Council of Neighborhood Associations – St. Petersburg, Florida
Application Form**

Neighborhood Leadership Program 2007

Completed applications and tuition must be received by November 30, 2006

1. Personal Information

Name _____ E-Mail Address _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Additional Phone/Fax _____ Cell Phone _____

Neighborhood _____

2. Employment Information

Present Employer _____ Position _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Will your employer sponsor a class or donate food/drink? YES _____ NO _____

3. Community or Neighborhood Involvement

A. On what neighborhood boards, committees or groups have you been or are you currently active and what have you accomplished in these activities that you think is important? How much personal time do you devote each week to your neighborhood or civic activities?

B. On what neighborhood boards, committees or groups would you like to become active in the future? Why?

C. What do you consider the single greatest issue facing our neighborhoods today? Suggest some possible approaches for dealing with this issue.

4. Education/Training

5. Special Skills

6. General Information

- Participants **must attend all classes, including the historic bus tour, and complete all assignments, projects or requirements in order to graduate.**
- Tuition for the program is \$75.00 and this includes the bus tour and lunch, and graduation dinner.
- You may attach additional pages to complete the questions.

Completed applications and \$75 check payable to CONA Leadership should be sent to:

**Patricia Guaveia
945 Monterey Blvd NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33704**

For questions or additional information, please call Committee Co-chairs, **Ingrid Comberg (727) 821-2192** or **Patricia Guaveia (727) 550-2012.**

2007 CONA Leadership Program – 15th Year!

Applications are now being accepted for the 2007 CONA Leadership program. Classes will begin in January and run thru May 2007, culminating in a graduation dinner celebration. This program was developed to ensure that St. Petersburg has a continuing base of knowledgeable and talented people ready to step into leadership positions.

The CONA Leadership Program consists of eleven classes, providing in-depth coverage of topics such as city government and city services, crime and neighborhoods, diversity, effective meetings and communications, historic bus tour, county government, and quasi-judicial hearings. Students have the opportunity to meet and converse with many community leaders throughout the program.

The program fee is \$75 which covers all classes, including the historic bus tour and lunch, and the graduation dinner. The deadline for applications is November 30, 2006. Checks should be made payable to 'CONA Leadership' and mailed with your completed application to:

Patricia Guaveia
Committee Co-Chair
945 Monterey Blvd NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33704
727-550-2012

For questions or additional information, please call committee co-chairs Ingrid Comberg 727-821-2192 or Patricia Guaveia 727-550-2012.

We encourage the CONA representatives to spread the word throughout their neighborhoods and to refer interested applicants.

RELIABLE POWER.

AND PEOPLE DEDICATED TO KEEPING IT THAT WAY.



Reliability means improving how we deliver your power. Quickly restoring power after storms. Striving to make our customer service the best it can be. And evaluating and preparing for the energy needs of future generations. The relentless pursuit of excellence. It's what we're all about.
progress-energy.com



Progress Energy

People. Performance. Excellence.

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center October 18, 2006

President Karl Nurse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

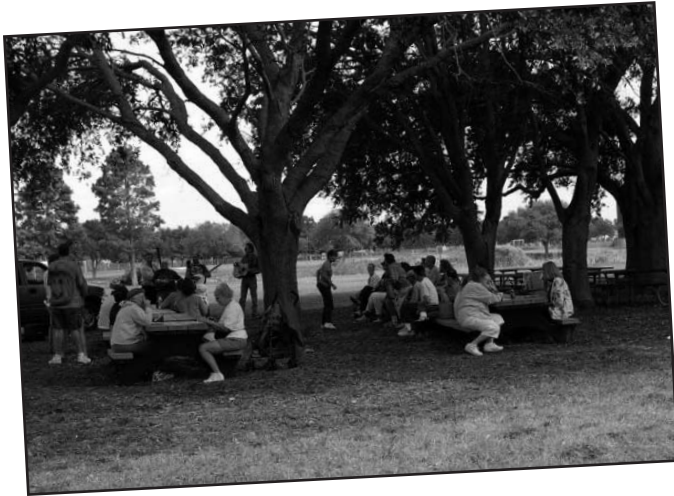
- ◆ Our audience was introduced to Lorie Lykens, the St. Pete. Times Journalist of the Neighborhood News Section. Annie McWilliams gave the Treasurer's Report of a current balance of \$2962.56. We also learned that all ticket revenue from our night at Tropicana Field has been collected.
 - Moved, (McWilliams), to allocate \$500 toward the costs of our CONA Leadership Class for 2007. [Approved]
- ◆ Patricia Guaveia, (Leadership Co-chair), invited enrollment in our CONA Leadership Program now in its 15th year. Starting in January, the class can accommodate 40 applicants. [Fee=\$75.]
- ◆ Darden Rice, (LWV), provided some details of our upcoming Candidates Forum jointly sponsored with AARP and The League of Women Voters. Candidates Kim Berfield and Charlie Justice, (for State Senate District 10), and Angelo Cappelli, and Bill Heller, (for State House Representative District 52), will debate as moderated by Bob Dillinger and broadcast by Bay News 9. This forum will convene October 25th at 7 p.m. in the Sunshine Senior Service Center. Volunteers needed for this program.
- ◆ Vice President Barbara Heck spoke briefly about success in historic preservation of Albert Whitted Airports Hanger #1 and of the upcoming Airfest at the airport October 21st and 22nd.
- ◆ Cathy Wilson, Nominations Committee Chair announced the resignation of Will Michaels as he accepted nomination for 2nd Vice President. We now have candidates for all officers.
- ◆ Karl Nurse offered a brief update for our Pinellas Living Green Expo Program for 2007. He noted that our PLGE Expo web site has been updated for 2007. The 2008 Expo will convene in Clearwater at the Harbor View Convention Center with the Clearwater Neighborhood Coalition as co-hosts.
- ◆ We then heard from Pinellas County Commissioner John Morroni who also serves on the PSTA Board.
 - He noted that our Darden Rice currently serves on two county boards.
 - We were reminded that all Pinellas residents have an opportunity to vote for four of the seven commissioners.
 - We heard of county programs that support the expansion of affordable housing in Pinellas.
 - In the Transportation realm, the Commissioner told us of several projects that integrate traffic control, though St. Petersburg has not opted to participate in those joint programs.
 - The accomplishments of the Penny for Pinellas tax revenues were reviewed proudly.
 - The Commissioner noted the current court suite challenging the vote on the proposed amendments to the Pinellas charter.
 - Mr. Morroni then fielded questions from the floor.
- ◆ Mary Darling, President of Bayou Highlands, our featured neighborhood this month gave us a history of her neighborhood association, established in 2001.
- ◆ Karl Nurse briefly noted the revival of his Grand Central Business District following revisions to the zoning codes.
- ◆ All members were encouraged to attend our December meeting that will honor Mike Dove for his contributions to empower our neighborhoods.
 - Moved, (Whysong), CONA to provide a plaque of appreciation for Mike Dove. [Approved]
- ◆ Tom Killian, (Jungle Terrace), invited all to attend our city-wide CONA Picnic, October 28th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ◆ Pat Siracusa, (candidate Cir. Crt. Judge, Dist.32), thanked all supporters and asked for their votes November seventh.
- ◆ Judy Ellis, (Lakewood Estates), reviewed her campaign to convince our S.P.P.D. to utilize "Soft Letters" to notify residents of nuisance infractions that have proven effect in other cities though they do not impose any penalty on their recipients.
- ◆ Judy also noted the phasing out of the "Blanket Trespass Ordinance" directed by Police Chief Harmon.
 - Moved, (Ellis), CONA urges adoption of the "Soft Letter Format" for citations of violations of nuisance ordinances, especially noise. [Approved]
- ◆ Jim Pellozzi, (Eagle Crest), speaking from the perspective of a Real Estate Broker, urged all to support an increase in Homestead Exemption from the current \$25,000 to the level of \$250,000.
- ◆ Greg Pierce, (Childs Park), gave an update on their initiative to uplift the quality of life in their neighborhood. We learned that Central Oak Park has opted not to participate in the Childs Park Initiative.
- ◆ Flyers were distributed describing the Halloween Trail available for children visiting Boyd Hill Park October 27th and 28th.
- ◆ Theresa McEachern, (Harbordale), reminded us that the "Entertainment Coupon Books" are available again this year for \$25.
- ◆ John Bagg told us that the next Pinellas Living Green Expo, (PLGE) Steering Committee Meeting would be here, 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 24th.
- ◆ Work is proceeding on the update of our CONA By-laws required to substantiate our IRS application for 501(C)3 tax status.
- ◆ Hoping for an impressive turnout, all were reminded of our October 25th Candidate's Forum

Our meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Conrad Weiser, Secretary

CONA Neighborhood Picnic

Saturday October 28, 2006 - 11:00 am - 2:00 pm





2006 Officers

President

Karl Nurse
Old Southeast
572-9311 Ext. 24
karl@baytechlabel.com

First Vice President

Barbara Heck
Snell Isle
894-6020
bg@racerrex.com

Second Vice President

Tom Killian
Jungle Terrace
343-2041
tomkillian@juno.com

Secretary

Conrad Weiser
Edgemoor
522-5008
MAOAI999@aol.com

Treasurer

Annie McWilliams
Isla Del Sol
906-4042
annie01@tampabay.rr.com

Frequently Called Numbers

Neighborhood Partnership
Office: 892-5141
Mayor's Action Line: 893-7111
Codes Office: 893-7373

CONA Newsletter Deadlines

Copy Deadline:
30th of each month.

Publication:
2nd Monday of month.

Mailing:
2nd Wednesday of month.

Editor:
Barbara Heck - 894-6020

Layout:
Mo Eppley - mo@mitymo.com

Featured Neighborhood – Childs Park

By Greg Pierce, President

The Childs Park Neighborhood was named after Julius and Lysander Childs, who in 1911 platted a large subdivision. The current boundaries are 5th Ave South to 18th Ave South and 34th Street to 49th Street. The neighborhood is primarily residential single family homes with a commercial area along 34th and 49th Streets. There is also an industrial corridor that runs along 8th Ave South.

The Childs Park Neighborhood Association was started in the summer of 1992 when a small group of residents came together to fight against crime. And in the true spirit of neighbor helping neighbor, the Uptown Neighborhood Association stepped in and offered to walk with us in taking back our community and purchased hats for us to wear. Thank you Uptown!

Another reason for forming the neighborhood association was to accept the invitation of the City to participate in "Operation Commitment". Under the leadership of then Mayor David Fischer we saw a number of improvements including: new sidewalks, landscaping, greater police presence, and the jewel in the crown - improvements to the park. Improvements to the park included: a parking lot, tennis courts, basketball court, playground, green space and a reserved area for a pool (which was built in the last few years).

Recently, the neighborhood was included in the Weed & Seed Program and is currently forming committees to meet and discuss ways to better the community. We are forming partnerships with those organizations that can bring a needed asset to the residents. Also, it was just announced that the Mayor has begun an Initiative in the neighborhood. We have given our input and are currently waiting for the outside contractor to report back with his findings.

Our community has the highest population of kids under the age of 18 in Pinellas County. And playing off the Childs family name - We Are Proudly "The Childs Park Neighborhood - Where Children Are The Future!"

**The Council of Neighborhood
Associations of S Pinellas County
P.O. Box 13693
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693**

| |
|--|
| Presort Std U.S. Postage Paid Permit #1084 St. Petersburg, FL |
|--|

Forwarding Service Requested