

CONA Newsletter

The Council of Neighborhood Associations of South Pinellas County

January 2012

President's Message

Congratulations to those that will lead CONA this coming year. First Vice-President Latoya Brown, 2nd Vice-President R. Ali Montsho, Public Safety Chair Kurt Donley, Land Development & Historic Resources Chair Judy Landon, and Membership Chair Jeff Frank will join Court Watch Chair Donna Law, CONA Leadership Chair Ingrid Comberg, Audit Chair Faye Jackson, Secretary Conrad Weisner, Treasurer April Gayle Gauseman and myself on CONA's Executive Committee. We will do everything we can to forward CONA's mission to: Unite existing neighborhood organizations and to foster the formation of such organizations; Provide training to and guidance for neighborhood leaders; Expand the pool of skilled and motivated neighborhood and community leaders; Promote communication between member organizations and the community at large; Act as neighborhood advocates with city, county, state, and federal government agencies n will.

Put February 4, 2012 on your calendars. CONA's Annual Goal Setting Forum will be held at 9am at Hospice - 3050 1st Ave. S. This year we will not only set our goals for the next year or so, but we will also try to come up with a fun project that all the neighborhoods can support. Volunteers will be welcome as well as attendance February 4.

There are a number of initiatives going on the community that CONA is playing a role. Our own Energy and Environment Committee is actively soliciting grants for a re-nourishing project in Campbell Park. The Urban Agriculture project being spearheaded by The St. Pete Chamber Has a number of Familiar CONA faces around the table. It may have the seeds of growing our neighborhoods. St Pete Together has the potential of bringing us together in many ways. Karl Nurse's Codes forum had had as many as 35 interested CONA members and is formulating some ways we can collectively make our City a more livable place. And the City is addressing our sign ordinance and is allowing stakeholders to participate, including CONA.

If you have not already renewed your membership please do so. Together we can conquer the world. Come join us at our next meeting when we will feature Pinellas Living Green's Tampa Bay Sustainable Neighborhood Certification Project--- and Pinellas Alternative Transportation Analysis.

Mike Gulley

CONA Board Meeting Wednesday, January 18, 2012

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

Agenda Items:

Installation of 2012 Officers -
Commissioner Ken Welch
Housekeeping (Minutes, Treas. Report, etc)
Sustainable Neighborhood Certification Project –
Steve Plice
Pinellas Alternative Transportation Analysis –
Commissioner Ken Welch

February 15, 7pm - Next Regular CONA Meeting

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CONA Newsletter Deadlines

Copy Deadline: 25th of each month
In Hand: 2nd Wednesday of month

We welcome articles, items of interest
and meeting reminders. All submissions to
the CONA Newsletter may be edited
for clarity, taste and length.

CONA Committee Reports

Diversity Committee Report

The Diversity Committee continues to participate in the City Council project to recreate the Community Alliance in some form under the banner of “St. Pete Together.” Work continues on development of a Vision and Mission statement and By-Laws. It is envisioned that there will be an open invitation to all persons and groups in our community to apply to be a member of the new group.

The Committee encourages everyone to participate in the Martin Luther King Celebrations including the Candlelight Vigil at the Carter G. Woodson African American Museum, 2240 9th Ave. S., on Sunday, January 15th, 6:30PM; the 26th Annual MLK Leadership Awards Breakfast on Monday, January 16, 7:30AM, at the Coliseum; and Diversity Sunday, Sunday, January 22nd, 3PM, at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 738 Pinellas Point Drive S., featuring an address by educator Anthony Thurston and youth of the 10th Street Church of God.

Codes Focus Group

The Codes Focus Group, facilitated by Councilman Karl Nurse, met October 24, November 14 and December 13, 2011 to brainstorm the issues that confront the code enforcement process. Approximately 35 concerned residents have met and discussed various challenges and solutions some neighborhoods have had success. The following issues have been isolated and discussed

1. Foreclosure related issues
2. Actions the City can take on forcing the sale and rehabilitation of long time abandoned properties:
3. Homeowners who are unable to maintain their properties due to age, physical limitations and/or fixed income:
4. Education and Training:
5. Property maintenance timelines for quick fixes:
6. Repeat offenders/multiple property owners:
7. Miscellaneous Issues:

After the December 13, meeting, it was agreed that a group would assist Councilman Nurse in formulating a position paper. That committee is diligently working and will have it ready in the near future. The results will be posted on the CONA Rep’s Forum. Reminder, CONA did vote to support a foreclosure registry at the November 18 Board Meeting and this recommendation will likely be in the final report.

Pier Proposal Review Committee

The Pier Proposal Review Committee has drafted a report for consideration by the CONA Executive Committee and Board. The Committee views the Lens and Wave proposals as the strongest of the three proposals being considered by the City. The committee sees the Lens’ cleansed and lighted

reef as a very positive marine science feature but asks that its feasibility be further validated. They also recommend the intensity of the Lens proposal for upland development be somewhat reduced including the size of the amphitheater and that the lagoon feature be omitted. The lagoon will reduce the land area of the upland and this space may be better used for other purposes.

Regarding the Wave proposal it is recommended consideration be given to some increased programming in the upland and alternative programming along the wide Pier bridge, as the water quality of the Bay is not viewed as sufficient to support successful swimming activity there.

Several recommendations are made for improving the proposals’ “Sense of Place”- their identity with our city. These include historic markers; use of motifs such as proposed by the Eye (lighting fixtures in the shape of pelicans-the city’s logo); use of Mediterranean Revival architecture for the drawbridge to Vinoy Park as a complement to the architecture of the Vinoy Hotel and condos; murals reflecting the city’s history; sculptures of the previous Million Dollar Pier Casino and the Inverted Pyramid; and a possible simulated Indian Mound on the upland as an observation point and opportunity to tell the history of our Native American forebears.

Overall the committee state it is fundamental that whatever proposal is approved there be provision for activities for all ages in both Phase 1 and 2, and that these activities be such that residents will make use of the Pier several times a year; that fees not be charged to gain access to the Pier or major Pier facilities; and that the proposal should be Green/LEED certified with state of the art sustainability, including energy efficiency and a carbon negative complex.

The committee expresses its concern that there were only three proposals to consider and that none were of the Mediterranean Revival or traditional style, St. Petersburg’s signature architecture; and that the time frame for public comment is very short, with no provision for a public hearing. It is noted the new Pier is intended to last 75 to 100 years. “We are not simply building for ourselves but for generations to come. It is important that we take the long view, including whatever time it requires to assure that.”

Members of the Committee include Will Michaels (Chair), Mike Gulley, Paul Boudrx, Barbara Heck, Robby Thompson, Jim Shattman, Kai Warren, and Ray Wunderlich (representing the Energy & Environment Committee). The full report is available on the Reps Forum.

St Petersburg Sign Ordinance Committee

A group of interested CONA members met January 7 at Panera Bread to discuss changes to the City Sign Ordinance. It is generally felt that the workshop scheduled to be held January 19 should be postponed to allow the stakeholders –Chamber of Commerce and CONA sufficient time to poll its members to see the type sign ordinance we would like to see. The current sign ordinance was initiated a number of years ago and appears to be largely reactionary. We would like to see a more proactive approach that embraced the City we want to be rather than the City we don't want to be.

Any CONA member interested in the outcome of the sign ordinance next year should contact the CONA Land Use and Historic Preservation Committee Chair Judy Landon. We would love to hear from you and hope that you volunteer to donate whatever time you have so that we may have a good consensus.

Urban Agriculture in St Petersburg

The Urban Agriculture project continues to grow in St Petersburg. We have obtained a grant from Bon Secours St. Petersburg Heath System to map out a sustainable future in St Petersburg and perhaps make it a model for the country. WE meet Fridays at 1:00 at the Cahmber of Commerce 100 2nd Ave N. All are welcome to get involved at the growing stages of this project.

The first community project we are promoting is the 10,000 greens project. The first stage of this project will be to have Faith House volunteers start seedlings. When they get large enough, we will enlist the schools to help transplant and nurture into plants that can be distributed into the neighborhoods to start educating and gaining participation in YOUR neighborhoods. This can be an excellent opportunity to engage our children and our neighborhood associations. Emmanuel Roux (Faith House, Oakdale Gardens) and Kip Curtis (Edible Peace Patch and Eckerd College) will be facilitating.

We will be looking for neighborhoods to partner with the schools in order to grow this project. Maybe it is also in the spirit of the grant program being provided by the City!

Mike Gulley

SAVE FEBRUARY 4, 2012 for The CONA Goals Retreat

CONA has reserved Saturday, February 4, 2012 at Hospice for our annual Goals retreat. The EC members present at our December 14 meeting felt we should return to a more traditional goals format.

Certainly our primary focus will be to get concurrence on the top Goals CONA should strive over the next 12 -18 months.

A second task will be to recommend a "Project" that CONA neighborhoods could support (use your imagination here) - hopefully one that will involve a number of neighborhoods and possibly gain some publicity for both the neighborhoods and CONA. Something that can be accomplished in a few months. Also will be looking for a volunteer to steward the project.

A third task will devote a few minutes discussing the General Board Meeting agenda's for the next year. "What would make you want to attend". What topics that would put more pizzazz or create more interest at our General Board meeting

Bring your ideas!!! Any volunteers to help set the agenda???

Make My Reservation

Name _____

Address _____

Neighborhood _____

Phone Number _____ EMail _____

Return form to Mike Gulley 542 Lewis Blvd SE, St Petersburg, Fl. 33705 or call 727-244-8374 for reservations.

Note: We would encourage participation of multiple neighborhood residents, but would ask that when we vote on goals, only on vote per neighborhood be cast. We can accommodate approximately 100 guests.

Tampa Bay Sustainable Neighborhoods

St. Petersburg was the first City in the U.S. to become a Certified Green City. Pinellas County was the first County in the U.S. to become a Certified Green County. In addition to living in a green county and a green city, homeowners can have their houses certified through The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system. Homeowners can also have their yards recognized as Florida Friendly Landscaping through the County Extension Service Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program.

Many neighborhoods have also pursued strategies to make our community more livable and more sustainable. There should be a way to recognize these efforts, just as we recognize cities, counties and individual homes.

With the help of CONA, we can develop a Sustainable Neighborhoods Certification Program that could be used throughout the Tampa Bay Region. Using a process similar to the Green City Certification program, we can create a standard for use by neighborhoods wishing to gain recognition for

outstanding achievements in making our community more sustainable.

Tampa Bay Living Green, Inc. is working with the Pinellas County Extension Service, as well as cities and schools to develop a meaningful green certification program for local community groups. CONA, the Clearwater Neighborhood Coalition, and the Pinellas Council of North County Neighborhoods are being invited to partner with the development and implementation of this project.

The goal is to begin a pilot program in three Pinellas neighborhoods this spring. We are hoping to identify a pilot neighborhood in St. Petersburg, Clearwater and North County to evaluate the program. We look forward to discussing this project at future CONA Board meetings.

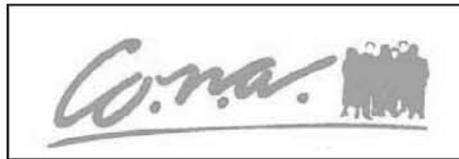
By Steve Plice
President
Tampa Bay Living Green, Inc.

Postage rates for neighborhood mailings

Standard Postage rates without bulk rate permit	\$.440
Regular postage rates WITH CONA bulk rate permit	\$.215
501c3 postage rates with CONA Bulk Rate permit	\$.115
Every Door Direct Mail	\$.142

Most neighborhoods using the CONA bulk rate permit will mail at the \$.21 per piece rate. If your neighborhood is a 501c3, submit form 3624 with the Business Mail Entry Unit. After receiving approval from the Post Office, use form 3602-NI with your mailing to receive the \$.115 per piece rate. For questions contact Mike Gulley, 727-244-8374 or work with the BEMU personnel at the main St Petersburg Post Office at 31st St and 1st Ave N

Every Door Direct Mail is a method to mail to an entire neighborhood, ZIP Code™, or city. It does not require a permit and is addressed to the current resident inside the boundaries. It may have some limited uses for some of our neighborhoods when a simple notification needs to be blasted and may be less expensive where a neighborhood largely comprises an entire mail route or routes. For more information go to <http://www.uspeverydoor.com/index.php/retail>



2012 CONA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

ANNUAL DUES \$35	\$35.00
CONA Bulk Mail Permit add \$15.00	\$ _____
Sponsor Another Neighborhood add \$35.00	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Please send before January 16, 2012

Mail to: CONA, P. O. Box 13693, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3693

Association Name _____
Annual Election Date _____
Meeting Time & Date _____
Meeting Location _____
Boundaries _____

Households _____ # Residents# _____ Members _____
Website _____

President Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

CONA Representative _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

CONA Alternate Rep _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Bulk Mail Permit (Optional) – Annual Fee \$15
Newsletter Mailings per Year _____
Newsletters per Mailing (200 Minimum) _____

Crime Watch Contact _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Have you completed Neighborhood Plan? _____
Have you completed / implemented Traffic Calming Plan? _____
List neighborhood issues that need help from CONA _____

For questions or inquiries regarding sponsorship, contact Jeff Frank - kirstenjeffinn@yahoo.com

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - November, 2011

- President Mike Gulley opened our meeting leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.
 - Calling Past President Will Michaels forward, Ingrid Comberg read our CONA Citizen of the Month Award for Dr. Will Michaels. Mike Gulley added his personal respect and appreciation as he presented our framed award.
 - Treasurer April Gausman reported our bank balance, unchanged from last month, stands at \$1,655.45.
 - Speaking for our absent Nominations Chair, Barbara Heck announced that Wayne Atherholt had withdrawn his candidacy from our 2012 slate.
 - Moved, (Heck, Shore Acres), that we approve, by acclimation, the unchallenged slate of 2012 candidates proposed by the Nominations Committee: For President – Mike Gulley, for First V.P. – Latoya Brown, for Sec. V.P. – R. Ali Montsho, for Secretary – Conrad Weiser, for Treasurer – April Gausman, and for Standing Committee Chairs: CONA Audit Comm. – Faye Jackson, CONA Leadership – Ingrid Comberg, Court Watch – Donna Law, LDR & Hist. Preserv. – Judy Landon, Membership – Jeff Frank, Nominating - Monica Abbott, Public Safety – Kurt Donley.
- [Motion Approved]
- The President announced the dates for the 2012 Annual CONA Goals Workshop. The program will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 4th convening at the Hospice Community Service Center, 3050 First Avenue S. Mike solicited suggestions for the goals agenda.
 - Recognition and appreciative applause was afforded Jim and Barbara Schattman for their long service of providing refreshments for the members and guests of our monthly CONA Board Meetings. There was gratitude to for another unsung hero, Mo Eppley, our Webmaster and Newsletter compiler.
 - Judy Landon, (Harris Park) presented several maps defining the proposed changes to our area voting districts, (e.g. dist.10, 11), necessitated by the population shifts detected in the last Federal Census Survey.
 - City Council objected to the imminent dilution of voting power for fully half of the City of St Petersburg, through its proposed inclusion in a US House district which would be overwhelmingly dominated by the City of Tampa. City Council also objected to splitting the City in half for US House districts.
 - Moved, (Will Michaels), CONA supports the St. Petersburg City Council's challenge of the proposed legislative districts within our community.
- [Motion Approved]
- Committee Reports:**
- Will Michaels also spoke for his CONA Diversity Committee.
 - They are working with City Councilman Kennedy to reestablish a city-wide organization somewhat similar to the previous Community Alliance to address matters of diversity and race relations.
 - Will is soliciting volunteers to participate in a new CONA Committee to review the three proposals for a new Pier. Mayor Foster is encouraging public input and has agreed to meet with the committee after its report is approved by the CONA Board.
 - Ingrid announced that there is barely time remaining to apply for the next CONA Leadership Class that will be our twentieth year.
 - Neighborhood Brag Night: Several neighborhoods proudly reported on their growth and progress.
 - Mike Gulley enumerated the many successes of our CONA members and committees during 2011. He was especially proud of the breadth of 33 different neighborhoods that have come forward to work with us in achieving our goals and solving our community problems.
 - Each of the following member neighborhood associations reported on their achievements last year- Harris Park, Central Oak Park, Shore Acres, Westminster Heights, Grand Central, Azalea. and Historic Kenwood.
 - Barbara Heck spoke briefly of the Helping Hands 4 St. Pete's Finest
 - Organization dedicated to assisting the families of Policemen killed in the line of duty.
 - Susan Ajoc of the Neighborhood Partnership Office spoke of their successes with the Care fest, (this year involving 2800 volunteers) and plans for upcoming Mini-Care fests that will concentrate on solutions for smaller area problems.
 - The Florida Neighborhood Convention this year will be at Pensacola. It is hoped that a group bus can be scheduled to reduce expenses.
 - Susan provided additional details of the Mayor's Neighborhood Conference scheduled for February 19th at the Hospice Community Service Center. The author, (Peter Kageyama), of the book "For The Love of Cities" will be the Host and keynote speaker for this workshop.
 - Will Michaels invited us to attend a meeting focused on Urban Gardening at the Chamber of Commerce, Friday 12/23/11 at 1 p.m.
 - Judy Landon invited to a January 19th City Hall meeting that will discuss the planned revisions to the city sign ordinances that have been nullified by City Council this summer.
 - Her LDR Committee will review the signage campaign at their Panera Bread meeting, January 7th at 10 a.m.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Draft Locally Preferred Alternative

The Pinellas Alternatives Analysis (AA) is one step in the ongoing development of an interconnected regional transportation system in West Central Florida. The study identifies transit options that would improve Pinellas County's and West Central Florida's quality of life. In doing so, the Study examined options to implement premium transit service connecting major residential, employment, and activity centers in Pinellas County to the Westshore area as well as Downtown Tampa, in Hillsborough County.

As a result of this effort, the following Pinellas AA Draft Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) is provided for consideration by the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and the public. This LPA was selected for its ability to satisfy the study goals and objectives after four rounds of detailed technical evaluations in accordance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidance. The Draft LPA offers transportation options that are safe, sustainable, affordable, and efficient, and will act as a catalyst for a vibrant and environmentally sustainable future.

General Alignment and Transit Mode

The alignment for the Draft LPA, as shown in **Figure 1**, was identified as the best alignment to provide mobility and connect people and places. Running south to north, the alignment travels along 1st Avenue South, 2nd Street South, and 1st Avenue North to the CSX Freight Corridor within Downtown St. Petersburg. Moving north from Downtown St. Petersburg adjacent to the CSX freight corridor, the route enters the Interstate 275 corridor north of 13th Avenue North, exiting at 62nd Avenue North, and travels west to Haines Road, then US 19, Gandy Boulevard, returns to Interstate 275, and exits at Roosevelt Boulevard to reach the Greater Gateway area. From the Greater Gateway area, the route follows Roosevelt Boulevard, Ulmerton Road, returns to Roosevelt Boulevard with a direct connection to the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, and travels along East Bay Drive to Largo. From Largo, the route travels adjacent to the CSX Freight Corridor to reach Downtown Clearwater. The Draft LPA also assumes a regional connection across Tampa Bay to Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa via the Howard Frankland Bridge corridor.

The Draft LPA recommends the use of Light Rail/Modern Streetcar along the general alignment in Pinellas County. This may include rail cars operating singly or in short trains of up to four cars.

The strengths and benefits of the Draft LPA alignment and transit mode are as follows:

- Provides access to households; cultural, educational, and recreational uses; employment centers; and designated redevelopment areas; and provides a connection to the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport.
- Provides efficient travel time between activity centers and amenities that attract a higher number of new transit users or users that would otherwise drive to their destinations.
- Encourages economic development along the alignment by attracting a higher number of new jobs and businesses to Pinellas County.
- Promotes and protects the quality of life by concentrating future growth around potential station areas.
- Supported by the public (Pinellas AA participants) for alignment and mode.

Supporting Transit Network

Additional countywide local transit service enhancements are recommended to support the LPA, connecting the "spine" of premium transit to communities and neighborhoods throughout Pinellas County. This includes expanded or new services in northern Pinellas County (illustrated in **Figure 2**).



CONA 2012 Executive Committee Members

President

Mike Gulley - Coquina Key
244-8374 - jmichael.gulley@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Latoya Brown - Campbell Park
823-0437 - latoyadenise@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President

Ali Montsho Westminster Heights
rmontsho@tampabay.rr.com

Secretary

Conrad Weiser - Americana Cove
522-5008 - conrad33702@verizon.net

Treasurer

April Gayle Gausman - Historic Uptown
244-1896 - april@realestatebyapril.com

Audit Committee

Faye Jackson - Highland Oaks
327-9844 - lfjx@msn.com

CONA Leadership Committee

Ingrid Comberg - Disston Heights
894-3048

Court Watch Committee

Donna Law - Central Oak Park
lawholdingsincl@yahoo.com

Land Development & Historic Resources Committee

Judy Landon - Harris Park
judylandon55@gmail.com

Membership Committee

Jeff Frank - Live Oaks
322-0488 - kirstenjeffinn@yahoo.com

Nominating Committee

Open

Public Safety Committee

Kurt Donley - Grand Central Association
331-7373 - kurtdonley@msn.com

Immediate Past President

Will Michaels - Bahama Shores
420-9195 - wmichaelscona@tampabay.rr.com

OTHER CONA COMMITTEES

City Budget Review Committee

Travis Jarman - Bayway Isles
cona.mail@bayway.org

Codes Committee

Open

Energy & Environment Committee

Tim Martin - Historic Kenwood
251-9979 - ftimothymartin@yahoo.com

Diversity Committee

Will Michaels - Bahama Shores
420-9195 - wmichaelscona@tampabay.rr.com

Midtown Outreach Committee

Open

Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control: 582-2600
City Council: 893-7117
Codes Compliance: 893-7373
County Commission: 464-3377
Mayor's Action Line: 893-7111
Neighborhood Partnership Office: 892-5141
Sanitation: 893-7334
SPPD: 893-7780
(non-emergency)

Florida Abuse Hotline: 800-962-2873

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

Return Service Requested

Presort Std
U.S. Postage
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St. Petersburg, FL