

CONA Newsletter

CONA Newsletter Deadlines - Copy Due-25th of each month, Mailing-2nd Wednesday of month, In Hand-2nd Friday of month

Mayoral Debate at CONA

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, The Elections are Coming, The Elections are Coming!

CONA does not endorse candidates but we do take up issues that affect one or all of us.

At this special meeting Mayor Bill Foster and Challenger Rick Kriseman are going to square off.

This is going to be a very different debate format.

Round 1. During the September meeting we had a frank discussion about what we need our city to do better. During the debate, I shall have that frank discussion with the candidates.

Round 2. NAACP is also going to have a frank discussion with the candidates.

Round 3. Questions from Neighborhood Presidents (see below)

Round 4. The Candidates ask each other questions.

So Neighborhood presidents please email me your questions kurtdonley@msn.com. During Round 3 of the debate, Neighborhood Presidents will ask the top questions and any real “dooseys”.

*I Look Forward to seeing **EVERYONE** There!*

CONA's mission:

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.



Kurt J. Donley
CONA President

CONA Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

(Special week later date due to Mayor's Debate)

The SUNSHINE CENTER, 330 5th St. N.

Doors open at 6 PM

Mayor's Candidate Debate starts at 6:30 PM

CONA Meeting starts at 8 PM

Agenda Items:

Mayor's Debate

General Business – Committee Updates

New Business – Neighborhood Sharing

November 20 – Next Regular CONA Meeting

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

CONA 101 – Avoid Officer Burnout and Keep Momentum Going

How do you avoid officer “burnout”? First, let everyone know that serving is *not a life sentence*. Make it fun. Set reasonable term limits for all offices. Set up a natural progression. Thank everyone and let them know that they make a difference.

How do you train, nurture and support your officers/board members? First assign a mentor to everyone. Provide training on how to do the job. Share your experiences. Help them learn from their experiences both good and “not so good”. Build relationships. Encourage problem solving and thinking outside the box. Introduce them to your contacts. Show them how to partner with others. Check the internet community for additional ideas. Network, network, network.

How do you plan well for continuity? Continue to mentor AND continue to praise good work. Recognize talent. Build on their passions and increase their responsibilities in those areas. Communication is “key”.

Remember the “R’s”. Reach out. Recruit leaders. Retain members. Recognize talent. Revise your plans. Repeat successes. Have a great neighborhood association.



R 4 U: Resources for You

Neighborhood News Calendars

Use our local newspapers and websites to promote your meetings and events.

- Tampa Bay Times (formerly St Pete Times): E-mail your information to neighborhoodcal@gmail.com Deadline is 5 PM Friday for the next Wednesday
- St Pete Patch: E-mail your information to William Mansell at www.stpete.patch.com
- City of St Petersburg: E-mail your information to Beth Herenden at www.stpete.org

Neighborhood Concerns – CONA can help.

Questions? Need help? Don't understand something? Can't find the information you need? Please contact any CONA officer with your problem and you will be put in touch with a mentor who can help your association find a solution.

Garage Sale Leftovers?

Donate your unsold “treasures” at the end of your garage sale to the charity of your choice. Many charities will arrange pickup so you do not have to take anything to a drop off center. This is a win-win-win for everyone. Your home is now clean. The charity of your choice has newly used “treasures” to sell and the people the charity supports are getting a helping hand.

CONA's Citizen of the Month

Please send us your suggestions of leaders in your neighborhood who deserve special recognition for their contribution, time, and ideas to your neighborhood association. Not only is recognizing our super volunteers something we can never do enough of, it also brings new people into CONA and helps us continue to build our leadership base. So, please send in those names of the leaders who shine in your neighborhood association!

Frequently Called Numbers

Mayor's Action Line 893-7111
SPPD (non-emergency) 893-7780
FL Abuse Hotline 800-962-2873

Animal Control	582-2600
City Council	893-7117
Codes Compliance	893-7373
Community Services	892-5141
County Commission	464-3377
Sanitation	893-7334

CONA Newsletter ad rates – (Monthly Rates)

\$15 1/8 Page–Business Card Size
\$30 1/4 Page
\$100 Full Page
\$50 1/2 Page
Insert (Prepared by Advertiser) \$ 50.00
Insert - Work-up Time & Material
Pre-Pay for 6-9 Months-Get 1 Month Free

CONA Committee Reports

Audit – Faye Jackson

The Audit Committee is currently completing the review of CONA financials for the year of 2012. CONA's Audit Committee members are Faye Jackson (Highland Oaks), Travis Jarman (Bayway Isles), Kai Warren (Historic Roser Park) and Mike Gulley (Coquina Key) who provide their expertise and commitment of time, and have at least one of the following areas or more of experience or background: experience serving on an audit committee, experience as a chief or principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, accountant, auditor, or position that involves performance of similar functions.

Communications Committee – Travis Jarman

The new CONA Forums are up! If you haven't yet registered for the Forums you are missing out on much of CONA's communications with our membership. Sign up now at the link below:

- <http://conaforums.org/register>

We are also pleased to announce the immediate availability of a supplemental 'direct to your inbox' email news subscription service. This enhancement to CONA Forums means that you can sign up to receive copies of new CONA News Bulletins and Announcements without having to make a separate visit to our Forums website. You can sign up at the link below – and you can unsubscribe from the mailing list at any time with just a click. This subscription is open to the public and CONA membership is not required.

Your email address will be kept private and will not be sold or used for other purposes. Visit the link below to register:

- <http://conaforums.org/email>

Subscribe now so you won't miss the latest news from CONA, and feel free to pass this information on to others who may be interested.

CONA Leadership – Ingrid Comberg

Sign up today for our CONA Leadership classes. Classes start in January and are held twice a month January to May from 6 – 9 PM at various locations throughout the city. Tuition for the program is \$125 which includes all classes, the historic bus tour with lunch and the graduation dinner. Neighborhood Associations have sponsored members in the past years. We are looking for another outstanding group to sign up for our 22nd Leadership class. For more information call Ingrid Comberg at 727-894-3048 or Tom Killian at 727-343-2041. Or check us out at www.conastpete.org

Codes – Robert Thompson

The Codes Committee meets monthly at approx. 9:30 AM at Maysters Cafe at 2444 Central Ave. Please join our meeting or e-mail Robby Thompson at rightspingle@yahoo.com with your concerns.

Court Watch – (Open)

CONA is looking for a Chairperson and Committee members. Please contact Sue Heyen at mimsue@tam-pabay.rr.com or 727-251-2224.

Energy & Environment – Tim Martin

A few of us have had meetings with the Friends of Boyd Hill and others to discuss the development of 100+ townhomes on a 10 acre piece of land bordering the Boyd Hill nature preserve. The site is wooded and undeveloped, which has led to concerns over adding high density housing and a new road in the area. Concerns include frustration over the elimination of the buffer zone surrounding the preserve; loss of habitat for the endangered gopher tortoise, indigo snake and other species; and the potential limitation for prescribed burns scheduled periodically at the preserve, to name just a few.

The land is owned by the St. Petersburg Country Club, which says that the development project would help offset declining revenues. Lakewood Estates Civic Association president, Judy Ellis, supports the development.

The new Save Boyd Hill Facebook page opposing the project has attracted nearly 3,000 likes. Save Boyd Hill yard signs have also begun popping up around the neighborhood as opposition grows to any potential development at the site.

The developer, Taylor Morrison, does not have a plan submitted as of this writing. However they are expected to submit something within coming weeks. While our committee is sympathetic with the effort to preserve this parcel, we are not asking CONA to take a position at this time.

Membership – Tom DeMint

Attention all CONA members: CONA would like to thank you for your loyal commitment to your neighborhood and our city. As our city develops and adjusts to the many current and upcoming changes, it is more important now than ever to not only renew your membership, but encourage others to join CONA.

CONA Committee Reports continued

Together we can be the change we would like to see. To renew your membership online, simply visit www.conastpete.org and click on the membership invoice. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tom DeMint via e-mail at tjd1@aol.com or by phone at 727-647-4239.

Nominating – Sue Heyen

We are still in need of committee members. Please help. If interested, please contact Sue Heyen at mimsue@tampabay.rr.com or 727-251-2224.

Pier & Waterfront Parks Special Committee – Will Michaels

The Committee completed its work on recommendations for the Downtown Waterfront Master Plan last month. The recommendations were discussed at the August Board meeting and approved by the Executive Committee in early September. Also in September the City held a “table exercise” attended by about 300 people to complete a survey regarding waterfront issues. Several CONA members participated.

In early October CONA President Kurt Donley and Committee Chair Will Michaels will meet with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to discuss CONA’s recommendations. ULI will issue their report later in the month. Major issues include how to protect and if possible add to the Downtown Waterfront Parks; alternatives to the large surface parking lots on the approach to the Pier and Al Lang Stadium; how to better tie the waterfront to other areas of the city including Williams Park, Mirror Lake, and the Historic Booker Creek Trail leading to Campbell Park; improved utilization of Al Lang Stadium; creation of a Marine Discovery Center involving the Bayboro Marine research facilities; and development of a promenade along Bayshore Drive extending from the Vinoy to the Dali Museum. The full CONA report contains 51 recommendations and may be found on CONA Forum, or you may request a copy from Committee Chair Will Michaels at wmichaelscona@tampabay.rr.com.

A historical perspective on downtown waterfront planning may be found on-line at <http://northeastjournal.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/NEJ-Sep-Oct-2013.pdf>.

World’s First Airline Centennial

On New Year’s Day, 1914, the World’s First Airline was launched in St. Petersburg. The airline was called the

St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line and flew trips twice daily between St. Petersburg and Tampa. Airboats, early versions of today’s seaplanes, were used because St. Petersburg had no airports in 1914. It was also safer as there was plenty of water to land on in the event of an emergency.

2014 will be the centennial year of the First Airline and several celebrations and projects are planned. These include:

Fall, 2013: School Aviation in Art Program and High School Essay Contest. Art submissions from students ages 6-17 in both Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties will be displayed at the St. Petersburg Museum of History in St. Petersburg and other locations. Prizes awarded in six different age groupings. First prize is a \$100 voucher courtesy of Southwest Airlines. Deadline is Nov. 5th. For more information see the website, www.airlinecentennial.org, or contact Mary Fletcher at mfletch3@tampabay.rr.com. Also the Jannus Society is conducting an Aviation History Essay Contest for high school students. First prize is three round-trip airline tickets to any destination out of Tampa courtesy of Southwest Airlines, and \$600 spending money. Deadline is Oct. 15th. For more information go to Tonyjannus.org or contact Juan.Vega@colliers.com.

November 15, 2013: 50th Tony Jannus Awards Program at the Vinoy, including celebration of the Centennial of the World’s First Airline. This year’s Jannus Award will be presented to Richard Anderson, CEO of Delta Airlines. For more information see Tonyjannus.org.

December 5: First Airline Panel at the St. Petersburg Museum of History (Doors open at 6PM; cash bar and light food). Panel includes Warren Brown, Aviation Historian; Joe Lopano, CEO TPA; and Kermit Weeks, Fantasy of Flight. Will Michaels, author of *The Making of St. Petersburg*, will moderate.

• **December 31, 2013: “First Night/First Flight”** programs at the Annual St. Petersburg First Night Celebrations. First Night will use the First Airline Centennial as the theme for the event. Images of the Benoist Airboat will appear on First Night posters and promotional material. Free Benoist balsa wood gliders to the first 500 young people. There will be a Benoist model airplane distance throwing contest. Tony Jannus cutout for photos. Tony Jannus (impersonator) will speak at 7PM. Reproduction of the Benoist Flying Boat will be on display next to the History Museum. Kermit

CONA Committee Reports continued

Weeks, CEO of Fantasy of Flight and builder of the airboat, will be on hand to tell the story.

- **New Year's Day, 2014:** Re-enactment of the First Flight of the First Airline using a reproduction of the first airliner, the Benoist Airboat, built by Kermit Weeks of Fantasy of Flight. Flight will takeoff from the Yacht Basin in St. Petersburg at 10AM and land at the seaplane basin at Peter O. Knight Airport in Tampa. The Mayors of St. Petersburg and Tampa will participate along with other special guests. The public is invited.

January 8: First Airline Program with historian Will Michaels at the Tampa Bay History Center (6PM).

New First Airline Portable Exhibit. A new First Airline exhibit is planned for the St. Petersburg Museum of History.

It's amazing to think that today's global aviation industry had its beginnings and first demonstration of success here in St. Petersburg. For more information, go to www.airlinecentennial.org.

Public Safety – Lisa Brown

Halloween is upon us and the costumes and decorations are displayed. I know that many neighborhoods will be doing several different things and with keeping everyone safe, especially our children, I wanted to pass along some Halloween safety tips:

- Make sure your children are able to see and breathe properly and easily when using facial masks. All costumes and masks should be clearly marked as flame resistant.
- Make sure your children wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight or glow stick when traveling during the evening hours.
- Teach your children to only approach homes that are well-lit both inside and outside.
- Accompany, or make sure a trusted adult accompanies your younger children to the door of every home they approach.
- Instruct your older children to take friends when trick or treating.
- Teach your children to stay alert and report anything unusual to you and/or law enforcement.

Have a booo-tastic Halloween!

Land Development & Historic Resources – Judy Landon

The landmarking process for the entire block of Janus Landing will be going to the CPC in November and to Council in December. The owner of the block objects to landmarking. This owner also objected to the landmarking of the Bishop Hotel, but that has now been resolved.

The proposed revisions to the historic preservation regulations are still in the legal department. Changes needed to implement the Central Avenue Revitalization Plan are going before the Pinellas Planning Council on November 13 and before the Countywide Planning Authority on December 10. If all goes well, the public hearing will be on December 19. However, the City is attempting to make a few changes to its submittal, which may push back the schedule.

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) is the consultant for the Downtown Waterfront Master Plan, and was in town the week of September 29 to conduct interviews of residents and to present its initial findings to the community. The ULI then has 30 days to produce a draft report. After the City has made its comments on this report, the ULI will then have another 30 days to produce a final report. To keep up with the process, go to the City's web page, and on the left side click on the "Downtown Waterfront Master Plan," then choose the link "project schedule."

The Historic Booker Creek Trail presentation to the CPC is now a report item on the agenda for the October 19 CPC. The proposed 14-foot wide trail might have problems within hilly Roser Park.

CONA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

The Sunshine Multi-Service Center - September 18, 2013

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by our President. The members then joined in a moment of silence for Conrad Weiser who passed away last week. Members shared some of their memories of Conrad. The services were held at Americana Cove 7201 1st. St. N. at 2:30pm.

Committee Updates:

Land Development – Judy Langdon:

Judy reports that the Historic Preservation regulations are making their way thru the city's legal department. City council still has staff working on Demen's Landing designation. The Endicott Building has a new owner who wants another extension for the designation. If your neighborhood officers change during the year please don't forget to contact Suzie Ajoc at the City and let her know so she can update neighborhood info.

Public Safety – Lisa Brown:

Lisa Brown requests that any neighborhoods that are having issues and need assistance to please call her.

From the President Kurt the city budget review is coming up and he brought up 3 items for City Council to consider:

1. Find money for PTEC for the Public Works Academy
2. Provide some seed money for the 20/20 plan, including grants for the mid-town CRA/TIF district.
3. Restart the Neighborhood Partnership Grants. This was brought before council and was not agreed upon. Mayor Foster agreed to try to find money in his budget for it.

President commended Mike Connors at the City and Duke Energy for responding promptly when asked for assistance in a neighborhood that lost almost all of its street lights.

The President had a meeting with Mike Dove and he agreed to assist new neighborhoods in getting up and running. He will be donating his time.

There was a discussion about the statute for dealing with disorderly houses. It was suggested that it is not strong enough and the President stated that our Nuisance Abatement laws need to be stronger. Someone else suggested that the state law supersedes the city on nuisance abatement laws.

A discussion was had on the possibility of neighborhoods returning to the CPO model instead of the present CSO one. It was suggested that we get more information on the plus or minus of both before proceeding.

President had some concerns to share with everyone from the Pinellas Point Civic Association. They are:

1. Concern about the amount of youth arrests during after school hours and the summer. It seems to be very high.
 2. The 34th Street Redevelopment needs a full time administrator.
 3. To ensure that juveniles are able to obtain jobs. Suggest giving civil citations instead of misdemeanor violations as this prevents them from having a record.
 4. Streamline process for small business to open and operate because the current city process is very complicated and discourages them.
 5. Get information to our kids about the internet's Kahn Academy. All our libraries and recreation centers have internet.
 6. Change pool hours so open earlier and later, so that more people can use them.
 7. Codes department needs to be improved. There are numerous areas in our city where nothing seems to get done.
- Then there was a discussion on how overworked our codes department is since the amount of workers was slashed by 30% during the last 4 years.

The President announced that the Bylaws changes that we voted on several months ago were passed. He had the wrong amount needed for a quorum.

There was a discussion about the Boyd Hill Preserve and the proposal to build townhomes next to it. It was suggested that CONA make public statement on article put in our newsletter that stated we were in favor of this. Judy is going to have a meeting with the Land and Development committee also. A motion was then made and seconded that CONA not take a position on the Townhomes at Boyd Hill Preserve. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

2013 CONA Membership list

Thank you to those neighborhoods which have paid their 2013 dues as of 10/15/13.

Airport Advisory Committee
Azalea
Bahama Shores
Bartlett Park
Bayway Isles
Broadwater Civic
Causeway Isles
Central Oak Park
Child's Park
Coquina Key
Crescent Lake
Crescent Heights
Crossroads Area
Disston Heights
Downtown Neighborhood Assoc
(DNA)

Eagle Crest
Eden Isle
Edgemoor
Euclid/St. Paul
Fossil Park
Garden Manor
Grand Central District
Greater Pinellas Point (GPPCA)
Harris Park
Highland Oaks
Historic Kenwood
Historic Old Northeast (HONNA)
Historic Uptown
Jungle Terrace Civic
Lakewood Estates Civic
Maximo Moorings Civic

Meadowlawn
Mel-Tan
MLK District
Mobel Americana
Northeast Park
Northeast Terraces
Old Southeast
Perry Bayview
Ponce de Leon
Riviera Bay Civic
Roser Park
Snell Isle (SIPOA)
St. Pete Preservation
Tropical Shores
Westminster Heights
Wildwood Heights

To everyone else – this is another gentle reminder to send your \$35 dues in today. Add \$15 to that check if you want to use the CONA postage permit for bulk mailing. Application forms and invoices are available at www.conastpete.org



SPPD Tip: Are you helping burglars?

By Stacey Payne, FCPA Secretary & LCSO Community Relations Manager

Today just about everyone has at the very least a basic cell phone, but most has more; there's the "smart" phone that's always with you and either a separate GPS or a GPS app on your phone. We have come to rely on all of this technology to keep track of important dates, numbers, accounts and other information we want and often need at our fingertips; but what happens if this information falls into the wrong hands?

Could some of this information be used to compromise our identity, steal money from our accounts, or even break into our homes? You bet! The good news is with a few changes to the way we record and save information we can keep the information at our fingertips and keep it safe from the thieves and con-artists.

"Out of Sight, Out of Mind" still works - When away from your car remove your GPS and cords from plain view; it will remove a temptation to break into your car and steal it.

Change the way you label addresses—Stealing your GPS may open you up to having your home burglarized. Most of

us save our "HOME" address in our GPS so when we are ready to return from our latest road trip we just have to push "home" and follow the directions...well that's all a criminal will have to do as well. Instead of labeling our home address "home" why not call it by a code name. Do you have your spouse, children, significant other or other family members listed in your phones address book as honey, son/daughter, mom/dad, etc? If so, it wouldn't take much for a scammer to send them a quick text pretending to be you asking for your PIN number to your credit card, your bank account number, or maybe to open the door.

Maybe, you even have one of these important numbers saved in your phone...just in case you need a memory jog. Again, simple changes will keep you, your property and your money safer. Don't use terms of endearment—Use their actual names in your address/phone book. Secure your personal and financial information in a location that makes the scammer or thief work harder to get. Create a secured document for this information.

We should not be afraid to use this great technology just understand that what we do can affect our safety and security and then take precautions to keep us, our families, our information and our property safe.

CONA 2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President

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

1st Vice President

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

2nd Vice President

Rashid Ali Montsho - Westminster Heights
803-795-8630 - rmontsho@tampabay.rr.com

Secretary

Sue Heyen - Historic Kenwood
251-2224 - mimsue@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit

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

CONA Leadership

Ingrid Comberg - Disston Heights
894-3048

Court Watch

open

Land Development & Historic Resources

Judy Landon – Harris Park
528-3735 – judylandon55@gmail.com

Membership

Tom DeMint – Edgemoor
647-4239 – TJD1@aol.com

Nominating

Sue Heyen - Historic Kenwood
251-2224 - mimsue@tampabay.rr.com

Public Safety

Lisa Brown - Wildwood
244-9018 - lisab0725@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

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

OTHER CONA COMMITTEES

Codes Committee

Robby Thompson - Westminster Heights
510-5087 - rightspindle@yahoo.com

Communications

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

Energy & Environment Committee

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

Newsletter Coordinator

Barbara Heck
894-6020 - barbara@theheckhouse.com

CONA Newsletter Deadlines

Copy Due 25th of each month
Mailing 2nd Wednesday of month
In Hand 2nd Friday of month



**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
Paid
Permit #1084
St. Petersburg, FL

CONA Remembers . . .

Conrad Weiser, 1935 – 2013. Conrad was our wonderful Secretary and a dear member of our CONA community for many years. Many of you did not know that Conrad was a Yale graduate, a computer engineer and a light plane pilot. His early career was devoted to developing pilot training simulators. He worked tirelessly for CONA and for Americana Cove. Conrad was always a true gentleman. He showed us a level of professionalism we should all try to follow. Conrad will be missed . . .

David Welch, 1928 – 2013. Born and raised in St. Petersburg, David Welch was elected to our City Council in 1981 and was the second African-American council member in the city's history. He served three distinguished terms on Council. He was also a longtime teacher, an administrator at what is now PTEC and taught Sunday school for decades. His son, Ken Welch, continues that work with the City, the County and CONA. David Welch will be missed . . .

General Election: November 5!
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!