

*"Your link to a better neighborhood"*

Clearwater

Neighborhoods

Coalition

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# NEWSLETTER

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Volume 24

Issue 2

February 4, 2008

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Next Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition Meeting  
**Monday—February 4th, 2008**  
6:00 PM– 7:30PM  
**>>East Branch Library<<**  
2251 Drew Street

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## THE PURPOSE OF THE COALITION

The Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition has been part of the community since 1981, and its ongoing purpose is to provide a forum for neighborhood associations to voice their concerns about neighborhood issues and to use our combined resources to address those issues effectively.

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## CNC MISSION STATEMENT

*to minimize the residential owner's total cost for government services*  
*to encourage equitable taxation and service costs*  
*to encourage increase in tax base through development and*  
*redevelopment of commercial areas consistent with existing*  
*infrastructure and character of the City*  
*to encourage cooperative programs between City and County that will*  
*enhance the special character of the City*  
*to encourage consistent and aggressive enforcement of City Codes*  
*to encourage improvement of water quality in Clearwater Harbor,*  
*Tampa Bay, and other water resources*  
*to encourage development of programs which enhance the visual*  
*environment of the Clearwater area*  
*to encourage programs which increase the cost-effectiveness of police,*  
*fire, and emergency medical services*  
*to encourage development of Neighborhood Watch programs*  
*to present the homeowner's point of view*  
*to sponsor "get out the vote" programs and Candidate Forums*  
*to encourage open, representative, responsive, accountable, and effective*  
*local government*  
*to cooperate with other homeowner associations with the County*

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**Setting the tone for 2008!**

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### Minutes of January 7th, 2008 Meeting

Meeting called to order by President, Shelley Kuroghlian at 7:05 PM.

Members present: JoAnna Siskin, Skycrest; David Muzio, Island Estates; Ray Massieu, Clearwater Beach; Norma Carlough, Windsor Park; Tom Calhoun, Coachman Ridge; Doug Williams, Northwood West; Ric Ortega, Sunset-Highland; Bill Jonson, Countryside Northridge; Ron Wright, Tropic Hills, Shelley Kuroghlian, Spring Lake

Guests present: Vionette Perry & Kelly Hinshaw, East Gateway; Judith Fisher, Windsor Park; Lisa Lanza, Valencia Park/ Cedar Grove; Frank Hibbard, City of Clearwater Mayor, John Doran, VP City Council; Rita Garvey, Candidate for Mayor, Carl Wagenfohr, Clearwater Gazette and Mike Danila, St. Petersburg Times

Shelley Kuroghlian introduced the candidates for Mayor (Council Seat #1) Rita Garvey and Frank Hubbard and John Doran (Council Seat#2). Each candidate addressed the membership and then took questions regarding:

- Plans for development of the downtown and dollars to be expended
- Parking at Clearwater Beach
- Plans for the CHIP Center, soup kitchen and dealing with the homeless
- Plans for the clean-up and development of the East Gateway

Support of state legislators for the City of Clearwater

John Doran spoke of his support for parking in the downtown, open space preservation and utilization of CRA funding in the downtown to jumpstart development.

#### Secretary Report

Motion by Doug Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Massieu to approve minutes as submitted. Approved.

Bill Jonson and Tom Calhoun asked to be added to the list-serve. Shelley Kuroghlian indicated that the minutes are in the website. No correspondence received.

#### Treasurer's Report

Doug Williams indicated that current balances are \$1648 an increase of \$200 over prior month which represents payment of memberships. He asked that members please pay their 2008 dues and send in the cards so that we can update our association information. Motion to accept Treasurers report by Tom Calhoun, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Massieu. Approved

#### COORDINATOR REPORTS

##### Code Board

Doug Williams talked about how the Code Enforcement Board works and advised members to utilize the new CITS system to report violations.

##### Membership Committee

JoAnna Siskin indicated assignments have been completed to phone for the CNC membership drive. Shelley Kuroghlian will send contact list via email to each member. She asked that all contacts be completed prior to the February CNC meeting. First time members will be able to take advantage of a complimentary one year membership. Norma Carlough indicated that she is getting very positive responses from the neighborhood associations that she is contacting. She asked people to listen to the reasons why associations haven't been coming and to get information on each to update our files.

##### Parks & Recreation

Ray Massieu announced that his term on the Clearwater Beach Assoc. Boars is at an end and that Ron Delp will be replacing him. No Parks & Recreation actions to report.

**Chamber of Commerce**

Doug Williams reported that the President and CEO of the Chamber, Beth Coleman has resigned. And that the interim President and CEO is Kevin Gartland. New Chairman is Bill Short, Chairman Old Harbor Bank. There will be a Tax Summit on 1/22 in the Harborview Center. The Chamber is taking a position against the Hometown Democracy rule and is for the School Tax proposal.

**Environment / Downtown Development**

Ric Ortega had no report for Pinellas Living Green. He will now be receiving minutes for the Downtown Development Board and will be requesting those for the Environmental Committee. Lisa Lanza asked the CNC to support the use of shallow wells in the City and ask the Council to apply to the County to get SWFMD to provide information on the rebate program.

**Community Development Board**

Norma Carlough is an alternate on the board and reported that the key issue is a 111 ft. dock on Clearwater Beach. Oversized garages were also discussed and the board voted to deny the application. Next month the Shops at Sand Key will be on the CDB agenda.

**Marine Advisory Board**

Tom Calhoun said that the Board advised that the CDB not support the application to erect a 111 ft dock which was approved by the CDB.

**Neighborhood Input**

- Lisa Lanza asked how the CNC works with Code Enforcement to help the neighborhoods. Norma Carlough said that she would be happy to help members work the issues with the City.
- Vionette Perry asked about how they can get the City to deal with nuisance businesses such as day labor and if that is code enforcement or zoning issue. Norma indicated that it is a zoning issue. JoAnna Siskin said that Officer Scott Ballard was working on a Nuisance Abatement Ordinance to curb these types of issues however his position was eliminated and we do not know who will be working this in his absence.

**OLD BUSINESS****New Facility/location for CNC Meetings**

Doug Williams checked YMCA on Enterprise Rd and that venue is not open in the evenings so it is not a viable alternative. Norma Carlough met with the coordinator at the East Branch Library on Drew St and it is available to us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month (with one exception 9/2) for the entire year. We would have to be out of the facility by 7:45 so it would mean that the meeting time would have to be changed to 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Shelley asked the group for agreement to change the meeting location to Drew St. Motion by Ray Massieu 2<sup>nd</sup> JoAnna Siskin. Approved.

**Short Term Rentals**

John Doran reported that the appellate courts upheld the decision to grandfather 31 properties on Clearwater Beach that currently rent on a short term basis. This approval will stand until the property is sold and not used for rentals for a specified period or time.

**NEW BUSINESS****East Gateway Coalition**

Shelley Kuroghlian introduced Vionette Perry and Kelly Hinshaw who are residents of the East Gateway. She told about the weekly walks and the efforts by the coalition to get the city to enforce the codes. JoAnna Siskin shared a list of violations identified in July on one of the walks that the EGC held weekly in the neighborhood. Many of them have still not been resolved and some of those that had been closed are now reoccurring. Vionette told of a walk that was covered by Channel 10 News which has brought focus to the cause. Neighbors are so frustrated that they want to sell their homes, due to the number of rentals in the area that pander to drug dealers and prostitutes. Shelley told the CNC that the EGC is in the process of scheduling a follow-up meeting with the Clearwater Police. She indicated that the EGC will come back to the CNC for their support of the clean-up effort. Ray Massieu asked if they had been before the City Council to seek help. He suggested that the CNC also go before the Council in support of this issue. Bill Jonson

asked that Code Enforcement (Jeff Kronschabl) and the Clearwater Police (Lt. Steffens) be invited to a future CNC meeting to provide us with an update. Shelley will schedule but would like to have the EGC meeting with them prior to the update at CNC.

**Crest Lake Park**

Users of Crest Lake Park asked that the CNC support their effort to get the newly installed benches turned around to face the lake, as they were in the past. They brought the concerns to the city during the construction but benches were installed facing away from the lake despite their complaints. They would like to know who made the decision to do this. Rita Garvey indicated that the response from Kevin Dunbar was that it was due to ADA requirements. We would like to know the specific requirements that were not met. Ray Massieu was asked to contact Kevin Dunbar to get this information. Rita Garvey asked if there is a requirement for every bench to be ADA compliant.

Bill Jonson asked if City vehicles were still driving though and creating ruts in the park. Shelley Kuroghlian indicated that park users would like the police to leave their vehicles to do a more thorough check but that there were areas that they would need to continually drive on creating the "ruts" in the park. John Doran commented that he saw the Park Patrol on duty Sunday morning. JoAnna Siskin indicated that it was not the newly created Park Patrol but Officer Murray from the regular patrol division. She indicated that Officer Murray patrols the park in the manner that users appreciate.

**Evaluations**

Shelley Kuroghlian asked that members fill out a new meeting evaluation form so that we can understand what we are doing well, what we need to improve and what changes would make the meetings more efficient and relevant to attendees.

Doug Williams made motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Massieu. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnna Siskin, Secretary

*Your VOICE is important to the Coalition.*



*We need to hear your concerns as well as suggestions and ideas for solutions on the issues that affect your neighborhoods.*



**Change in Association Officers Notification**

Please forward names of new officers for your association to JoAnna Siskin, CNC Secretary at [siskinj@aol.com](mailto:siskinj@aol.com).

Please send comments, opinions, and suggestions regarding the **Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition** to P.O. Box 8204, Clearwater, FL 33758-8204 **or please contact the officers**

2008 Officers

Shelley Kuroghlian	President	727-736-0154	Spring Lake
Ric Ortega	Vice President	727-938-2835	Sunset-Highland
JoAnna Siskin	Secretary	727-442-0096	Skycrest
Doug Williams	Treasurer	727-725-3345	Northwood West