



## DISSTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# General Member Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 01/14/2020

**7:00 P.M.**

**Time:** Social 6:30 p.m.; Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 8:07 p.m.

**Location:** St. Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30<sup>th</sup> Ave N

**Attendees:** 27

### Agenda

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Opening Comments
- Neighborhood Crime report
- Spotlight Speaker
- Sponsor
- Treasury Report
- 50/50
- Closing comments

### Meeting Minutes

**Crime Report:** CSO Burger reported 28 vehicle burglaries, 3 residential robberies

**Opening Comments:** P. Huff- The Disston Heights Christmas Tree won the People's Choice Awards at Shopapalozza Festival and raised \$496

**Spotlight Speaker:** Mayor Rick Kriseman provides a 2020 Update

- 1) 2050 Vision Plan: What will our city look like in 30 years? Strongly encouraging us to provide our inputs, likes & dislikes. StPete2050.com or attend the CONA meetings.
- 2) The Pier: Unlike any other pier St. Pete has seen in history. A experience, not just a building over water.
  - Open air market shaded with solar panels
    - He signed a bill to make St. Pete 100% renewable energy
  - Adding trees & grassy area
  - Janet Echelman artwork suspended in air which will look animated with the breeze
    - Grassy area below so you can sit under it
  - Million-dollar kid playground
    - ADA accessible

- Performance Pavilion
  - Spa Beach expansion with paddle board & kayak rentals +
  - Tilted lawn with shared structures
  - Doc Ford Seafood restaurant with shaded (solar panel) parking
  - To get to The Pier you can walk the main road, Tram or coastal thicket
  - “The Great Lawn” before the Pier head
  - Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center
  - Driftwood Café
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor restaurant and rooftop bar from the same owner as Birchwood & the Canopy
  - Fishing off the back
- 3) Mayor Kriseman thanked us for being a part of our neighborhood association stating “an association allows at least one loud voice”
- 4) Questions & Answers (DHCAM = DHCA Member; MK= Mayor Kriseman)

**DHCAM:** AARP opened an exercise park. Are there plans to accommodate more for older people in the future for this city?

**MK:** It is important that our plans include all demographics. 20-35yrs and our older demographic is the largest growing in St. Pete.

**DHCAM:** Will there be signature events at the Pier?

**MK:** Collier International will manage The Pier. They have a company for event planning. Details are still being worked.

**DHCAM:** Will there be parking for the disabled at the Pier?

**MK:** Yes, everything is ADA accessible.

**DHCAM:** Did we make our 2020 goals?

**MK:** Yes, but that is answered in the eye of the beholder. Some do not see it the same way he does.

**DHCAM:** Housing affordability for the future.

**MK:** From all sources, Federal & State. The Sadowski Fund is supposed to go to housing but the government keeps allocating it elsewhere. He asked us to call or contact our senator or councilman to urge them to use the funding for housing. He is working on ordinance & zoning for garage apartments and granny flats. Over a 10 year period he wants to double the amount of housing that is affordable.

**DHCAM:** Blighted houses & commercial properties. What is the plan for those?

**MK:** Property values are rising. Store front conservation on central to preserve the area. When businesses move they open up new ones to revitalize the area.

**DHCAM:** Options for public transportation?

**MK:** Transportation is a big issue. Bad mass transit. Hoping that Pinellas County brings in a transit referendum. The Ferry is a good example of things that work. Also looking into cable-based transit which is 1/5 the cost of light rail with no impact to the level of service on the road. BRT is coming with service between down town & St. Pete beach. The RFP period is ending for Scooters. Expand the trolley & loop.

**DHCAM:** Any advice for me trying to start a Civic group at school?

**MK:** Set up a meeting with your Principal & present a plan.

**DHCAM:** Downtown is growing. What about the neighborhoods?

**MK:** Want all areas to be successful and thriving. Murals can be in neighborhoods, even using grant money. Encouraging developers to look outside the city into neighborhoods.

**DHCAM:** Stop developing downtown. It is being over saturated. It is not for old-time residents anymore, too expensive.

**MK:** Yes, there are pricey restaurants coming in but also low-cost places. We need to grow smart & bring our footprints up.

**DHCAM:** With the city building up, what is the plan to grow security?

**MK:** St. Pete is fully staffed and has 600 police officers on the books. Crime is down overall

#### **Treasury Report:**

\$70 Dues

\$90 CONA-sponsored Park

\$46 PO Box

\$43 50/50

Margie Manning asked Betsy if she paid her dues. Betsy asked her to email her.

*I suggest a dues list be present at every meeting for these type of inquiries*

**Sponsor:** Christ Lutheran Church. Joe explained location & they do more than worship. They have many outreach programs. Pamphlet provided.

**50/50:** \$13 in pot. The Winner accepted \$8 and gave back \$5

#### **Closing Comments:**

- 1) Voted Katie Wallace as Secretary
- 2) Next meeting, speakers will be David Foote, Executive Director of Central District & Dave Monroe, Professor representing SPC
- 3) Suggestions for marketing material? Chip clips/ koozies/ shopping bags
- 4) Betsy to develop logos and we will vote on it for our banner



## DISSTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# General Member Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 02/11/2020

**7:00 P.M.**

**Time:** Social 6:30 p.m.; Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** St. Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30<sup>th</sup> Ave N

**Attendees:** 28

### Agenda

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Opening Comments
- Neighborhood Crime report
- Express Speaker
- Spotlight Speaker
- Treasury Report
- 50/50
- Closing comments

### Meeting Minutes

**Crime Report:** CSO Burger reported 15 vehicle burglaries, 5 auto thefts, 7 residential burglaries, 1 commercial burglary

**Opening Comments:** P. Huff - Vote on DHCA Logo, unanimous vote by all attendees

**Express Speaker:** David Foote, Executive Director of Grand Central District

- Non-profit organization working as a Chamber of Commerce for local businesses
- 20-year anniversary of Grand Central District which was established to change its neglected landscape of crime & vacancy
- Creative murals, craft beer breweries, electric businesses, outdoor dining, LGBTQ community and pet friendly establishments define it
- Grand Chili Cook-Off postponed

**Spotlight Speaker:** Dave Monroe, Ethics Professor and Acting Associate Dean of College of Policy, Ethics & Legal studies at SPC

## St. Petersburg College

- AA, AS & BS degrees
- Certification Programs for professional development

### SPC open to the public

- Palladium Theatre downtown
- Plays at the Clearwater Art Auditorium
- Music recitals and dance performances at the Music Center at St. Pete Gibbs
- Men's & Women's basketball
- Men's & Women's Volleyball
- Men's & Women's Softball
- Women's Tennis
- Pinellas County High School Ethics Bowl
- Library Partnerships with Cities
- Free Planetarium Shows
- Student food pantries
- Lifelong Learning

### **Open Floor:**

- Firefighters & Lifeguards Car Wash Fundraiser
  - 100% of the proceeds will go towards providing free swim lessons to children in need
  - 2/22/20 9-12pm Northwest Park 5801 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave N St. Pete, FL
- HEAT: Health & Educational Alternatives for Teens
  - Donations for new & unopened personal/feminine hygiene, ethnic hair care products
  - Bring donations to next meeting; will be collected by Heather Hoe
- Easter Egg Hunt at Gladden park 4/4/2020
- Disston Doggie Wash at Gladden Park 5/2/2020
- Nominations for Mayors Annual Neighborhood Awards due Friday 2/14/2020 by 5pm
- CONA Earth Day event at Williams Park

### **Treasury Report:**

\$150 collected for dues

\$159.98 for website

\$12 in 50/50

Won \$496 in people's choice tree (\$50 to cashbox the rest deposited)

Balance= \$1,759.33

### **Sponsor: ?**

**50/50:** \$25 in pot. The Winner accepted all \$13

### **Closing Comments:**

**Next Meeting: 10 March 2020 1830 to 2000**

Minutes captured by Katie Wallace