**Central Oak Park Neighborhood Association**

**General Meeting Minutes for March 25, 2025**

Present: Michelle Anderson, Heather Chumbris, Phillip Baker, Diana Schuh, Elaine Hartin, David Ponte, about 30 neighbors. Council members Richie Floyd (District 8) and Corey Givens, Jr. (District 7) were also present.

Michelle opened the meeting at 6:35 a.m.

St. Petersburg Police Department Report

Community Service Officer Michael Pawlishen introduced himself as the neighborhood’s new CSO. He reported that since our last general meeting, there were 136 calls for service, two auto thefts, one armed robbery of a cell phone that was recovered. No crime patterns have been detected in the neighborhood. He stressed the importance of locking your car and making sure residents don’t leave any valuables in their cars, especially firearms.

There was some discussion about prostitution/drug issues at an abandoned house on First Avenue South. Officer Pawlishen said the department is very aware of the house and surrounding area and have been working on issues there. He strongly urged residents to call the SPPD non-emergency number (893-7780) whenever they observe such activity.

District 7 Council Representative Corey Givens, Jr.

Corey Givens introduced himself as the newly elected District 7 representative. Some of the issues he’s introduced to council or is working on include a workforce housing initiative along the Pinellas Trail and PTSA routes, a free gun lockbox program initiated by SPPD and the mayor’s office, the ongoing gas plant initiative. He encouraged attendees to contact him at

727-433-5477 about any district issues and to get on his email list (corey.givens@stpete.org.

Vice President’s Report

Heather talked about her work on the Council of Neighborhood Association (CONA) Public Safety Committee. She highlighted two thingsSPPD Chief Holloway highlighted at the last monthly CONA meeting. The first was the Box of Safety. Getting to know your neighbors on either side and across the street from your home helps you know who should be in your area and who shouldn’t. The second was the ability of SPPD to track down criminals using license plate cameras posted around the city and in police cars. Residents can call SPPD with just a few details (blue car, red bumper sticker) and officers can review footage of every car fitting that description that has passed a camera.

Heather also mentioned that the committee is conducting a public safety survey that can be accessed on the CONA website. ([stpetecona.org](http://stpetecona.org))

*Join or Die* Film Presentation

Michelle showed the film trailer that she and Diana had seen at a recent city meeting. The film is based on the book, *Bowling Alone,* whose author (Robert D. Putnam) studied the positive health and community effects of participating in organizations and clubs.

Board Elections

Michelle thanked everyone for her four years as the COPNA board president. The board presented her with flowers.

There were no contested seats. The following were elected unanimously

President - Heather Chumbris

Vice President - Elaine Hartin

Treasurer - Phillip Baker

Secretary - Diana Schuh

At-large members - Chris Lieber, Sharon Benson and Brenda Shadday.

Treasurer’s Report

Phillip reported that the association has $4,246.09 in the bank. Expenses were $299 for Web hosting, $79.50 for Mail Chimp, $51.52 for pizzas purchased for the last general meeting, $300 spent for Diana Schuh and David Ponte to attend the CONA Leadership program, and $54.73 spent on supplies for the recent neighborhood cleanup.

Income was $480 for memberships, $310 in flag sales, $170 reimbursement from the City for the Holiday Block Party.

Neighborhood Clean-Up

Heather reported that the clean-up held on March 22 yielded 275 pounds of trash. Around 20 people participated and the board publicly thanked Heather Arcangel for organizing the event.

Upcoming Neighborhood Events

Adult Easter Porch Party will be held on April 18 at 7 p.m., 4555 Dartmouth Avenue North. Please bring a covered dish and BYOB.

Neighborhood Yard Sale will be held on April 26. More information will be posted on the COPNA website.

Miscellaneous

Neighbors should use seeclickfix.com to report issues with sidewalks, stop signs, etc. The website is monitored by the city and is the quickest way to get problems addressed.

Please notify the board if you find any of the Central Oak Park endcap signs off their poles.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Schuh, Secretary