**Central Oak Park Neighborhood Association**

**General Membership Meeting 1/25/2025**

Present: Michelle Anderson, Phillip Baker, Heather Chumbris, Elaine Hartin, David Ponte, Diana Schuh. There were about 20 neighborhood residents in attendance. Michelle opened the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

**St. Pete Police Department**

A district officer reported that there were no crime patterns or sprees going on in the neighborhood. Since September there have been 90 property crimes and 52 car burglaries. Most of these involved unlocked cars and unlocked cars with keys in the ignition. The officer stressed that we should be locking our cars and not leaving items in cars that entice thieves.

**David Hegarty, Neighborhood Transportation Coordinator, City of St. Pete**

David shared with the group that the city is conducting a 49th Street Safe Street Study. The portions of the street that encompass St. Pete and Gulfport have been identified as “high-injury” areas. In the next two years, the city will be implementing better walk signals, LED lighting and raising existing medians. Long-term ideas include converting 49th Street into a two-lane road with bus bays, a center turn lane and new medians with greenery. He stressed that this is still in the concept stage – there is no website for the project yet – and there will be opportunities for public input

He also reviewed the process for requesting speed humps. Any resident living on a street can make a request. The city then conducts a 24-hour speed/volume study. Recorded speeds that are 35 mph and above qualify for a speed hump neighborhood petition. Signatures have to be collected from each resident impacted by the speed hump proposal.

David also noted that the Stormwater Pavement Department is the contact for requests to pave alleys.

**Neighborhood News**

Board elections will be held at the March general meeting. There are currently two spots open and the board is taking nominations. Spring porch parties are also being planned and the annual neighborhood yard sale is coming up in April. More details will be announced in the neighborhood newsletter. There is also a neighborhood cleanup being organized. Details TBA.

**New and Other Business Members**

Ryan Scofield of Evergreen Lawn Services was introduced as a new COPNA business member. Laurie of Tasty Treats announced that the cafe/bakery is now open seven days a week until 8 p.m.

There were no other announcements/discussions. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Schuh, Secretary