

YCECA Annual Meeting 2/27/17

Call to Order And Welcome

The Annual Meeting of the Yacht Club Estates Civic Association (YCECA) was held at The Garden Club (500 Sunset Drive South); President Dana Tenaglia Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. , welcoming homeowners, City officials, and invited vendors. There were approximately 80 in attendance.

President's Report—Dana Tenaglia Murphy

Dana expressed thanks to the volunteers of YCECA for their work, making the Association well run, though there is no mandated HOA. She encouraged residents, therefore, to pay their dues and encourage their neighbors to join and participate in making YCE an even better place to live, enabling more improvement projects to be completed.

Introduction of Current Board Members

- President – Dana Tenaglia Murphy (also chairs Halloween parade, Holiday Homes, and the Spring Party)
- Vice President – Melanie Hollis (also Editor & Publisher of the *Navigator*, YCE's neighborhood newsletter; chairs the Underground Utilities committee as well as the Toll Prevention committee)
- Treasurer – Henry McIntosh (also does Membership)
- Secretary – Sandra Sockwell (also Operation Sunshine)
- Member at Large -- Bonnie Cannard (does email blasts and maintains our website)

Approval of Minutes of Last Year's Annual Meeting

Last year's meeting minutes were moved to be adopted, the motion seconded, and then were accepted by the membership in attendance.

Treasurer's Report—Henry McIntosh

Henry went over the Treasurer's report and the membership drive. Of the 365 households in YCE last year, 196 paid the voluntary dues, which are a minimum of \$25.00. To date, there are only 94 paid; \$6,996 has been added to our project coffers from all sources. Most of our dollars are derived from ads in our quality newsletter. Encourage your neighbors to get involved with the Association and your favorite vendors to advertise in our newsletter. More voices need to be heard to keep our ideas fresh and the beautiful neighborhood even more appealing. Projects are limited by funds available. Last season's Holiday Homes, chaired by President Dana, netted \$1,675. Henry gave details comparing 2016 & Year-to-Date funding. We may be ahead of our membership curve of 2016, but we can always use more voices, more members of YCECA. He reminded members & residents that signs have been posted at the entrance of the neighborhood calling attention to time for membership renewal. Annual dues payment reminders can be seen coming and going. He closed his report with, "We love living here."

Introduction of Committee Chairs & Requests for Volunteers

Beautification Chair – Leo Higley has announced his retirement after many years of service, keeping the lighting aspect under his watchful eye. YCECA owes a great deal of thanks for Leo's untiring service to our neighborhood. Jerry Brown, of Florida Ground Control, has accepted the challenge of following in Leo's steps as Chair of the Committee.

Block Captain Chair – Suzy Olson

Neighborhood Watch – Dieter Weber

Outreach Chairs – Nancy Baird & Jacqui Frehling. Nancy announced “collection in the median” plans for food, clothes, etc., on April 29—Save up!

Spring Party -- Dana Tenaglia Murphy said the date TBA, around “April-ish. ”

Underground Utilities – Melanie Hollis reported on her research on bringing underground utilities to the front of the neighborhood, as the back part already enjoys the free air space. We got a quote from Duke Energy, which told her it would cost \$3.4 million to bury all the wires in the front part of YCE. Plan B, which was to divide and conquer, has a more manageable budget--\$6500 to bury Duke’s first line at the entrance; WOW is removing their overhead line since it is inactive, and Brighthouse (2 cables) and Verizon (one cable) are looking into possibly the same scenario. This is exciting news; this aesthetic touch—uncluttered skies-- will make YCE’s entrance much more appealing to visitors and homeowners alike and will enhance real estate marketing of our neighborhood. Those interested in donating toward this project are strongly encouraged to so.

Communications – Bonnie Cannard (mass emails, website, etc.)

Beautification – Leo Higley. Bridge & debris thereon is a constant concern; lighting, signage, custom poles & fixtures, etc., are paid for & attended to by YCECA. The City of St. Petersburg cuts the median grass, but YCECA has employed Florida Ground Control through your Association funds to keep our flora fresh & spiffed up. Leo recognized Conner DeMeza for his help with lighting maintenance.

Neighborhood Watch – Dieter Weber. President Dana acknowledged representatives of Fort Knox, an independent security system provider, attended the meeting (others were invited) and had information for interested homeowners. She then called on Dieter for a report on his research of enhanced security for YCE. He reported that speeds have decreased this past year, but we’re still not driving 25. Better, but not good enough. Several attendees mentioned they liked the signs they had seen in other neighborhoods saying, “Drive Like Your Kids Live Here.”

There is a crime issue of opportunistic theft in our neighborhood, which does not make us unique. He encouraged members to check out the St. Petersburg PD website. Our troubled time is 12-5 am. Thieves are stealing cars with keys left in them, goods (especially electronics & guns) left in unlocked vehicles, or even breaking into cars when goods have been left uncovered and unsecured. 6 suggestions have been researched: increase PD patrols (SPPD does not have adequate staffing for this); organize neighborhood volunteers to patrol 12-5 am (no takers here); extra patrols are too expensive for the City PD to maintain; randomized patrols by independent contractor (one was invited to speak briefly at the end of the meeting—see summary of Signal 88’s presentation below); invest in state-of-the-art cameras at the entrance & exit (SPPD said that option was basically not helpful to solving crimes due to not showing the actual crime occurring); homeowners were encouraged to invest in & register their own high quality HD cameras with the SP Police Department. Chief Holloway also encouraged us to send images of those stealing as well as of their cars to “Tip 4-1-1.” Pictures of both are helpful in apprehending culprits, according to the Chief. (See the SPPD website—police.stpete.org--to register your home or business surveillance cameras with SPPD. To see specific techniques for sending pictures and/or videos to SPPD, go to their website’s “Solve Crime” link.)

Introduction of City Representatives

Police Chief Anthony Holloway

Mayor Rick Kriseman

Director of Neighborhood Affairs Mike Dove
Code Inspection Supervisor Mike Vold & Angela Roberts
SPPD Crime Prevention Officer Mark Williams

Motion for Adjournment at 7:52 pm.

Police Chief Anthony Holloway had very good news for us & all of St. Petersburg—crime is at the lowest rate in six (6) years! He spoke of the SPPD’s “Park, Walk & Talk” program, where an officer does just that—parks his/her car, walks the neighborhood & talks to residents to get to know them so they can better identify those not belonging in our area. Make sure you make your acquaintance with the officers when you see them in our area. They are here to help YCE be a safer place to live. Again, he encouraged participation in “Eagle Eye” and use of texting for “Tip 4-1-1.” (See the St. Petersburg Police Department’s website for more details on this texting technique—police.stpete.org.) Chief Holloway was joined by Crime Prevention Officer Mark Williams.

Mayor Rick Kriseman, who reminded us that he grew up in YCE, spoke of many City projects of interest to YCE residents. One was the Pier, which is on budget & scheduled to be completed by the end of 2018 (visit the City’s website—www.stpete.org--for more details including a timeline for that project). Especially reassuring news concerned Treasure Island’s prospective toll road plans. The Mayor stated that he & TI’s Mayor Robert Minning are working together to obtain a grant to repair the road on Central Avenue from Park Street to the bridge (~\$800,000-\$1 million). Once these repairs are completed, Treasure Island will hand over that part of the road to St. Petersburg, which action will assure that no toll road will be there to prevent free entrance to or exit from our neighborhood. If the grant is not forthcoming & TI attempts to place a toll on the road, the Mayor has assured us that St. Pete will sue TI over breach of contract. Mayor Kriseman encouraged support for “Pennies for Pinellas,” a county-wide collection that provides funding for various projects, such as streetscape improvements, etc., for Central Avenue. He also mentioned various efforts being made to try to keep the Rays in St. Petersburg. In other positive news, there is also a \$6 million storm sewer system improvement for quality of life (there were problems during some recent heavy rains). He then entertained questions and provided information on many other various topics of interest to those in attendance.

YCECA is honored that all these elected & appointed officials took their time to come to our meeting to provide YCECA & other residents valuable information. We express gratitude for their attendance and participation.

Signal 88 was given the floor, as invited by our Neighborhood Watch, to briefly explain what services their company provides in relation to Dieter’s committee report earlier. Mark Arner said a visible, active presence of trained patrol, even though they are not police officers, is a crime deterrent; randomized patrols is what his company does, 7 pm-5am, 7 days a week. Cost to the neighborhood would be \$13,200 annually, should we choose to hire them. Contact Dieter Weber for more information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Sockwell
Secretary