

# Sanders Beach-Corrine Jones Resource Center 913 South I Street Pensacola, FL 32502 5 August 2019

The business meeting was called to order by Rand Hicks at 6:07PM, who noted that the meeting met quorum requirements and was being recorded in both audio and video for record-keeping purposes. Our special guest for the evening was Elizabeth Heikkenen from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, and she offered an excellent presentation on coyotes and foxes.

# Approval of the Agenda

Added for discussion were the topics of raccoons to Elizabeth's presentation; the road diet on Palafox, adding bike lanes; and code enforcement. The Agenda was approved as amended.

# Approval of the Minutes

David Del Gallo motioned that they be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Scot Abel, and it passed unanimously.

## **Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of our Treasurer, Walter Wallace, Rand presented the most recent figures. CNAPP has a balance of \$637.97 in our checking account. Sam Mathews made a motion to approve the report, which was seconded by Dan Bowen, and it passed unanimously.

## **President's Report**

Rand confirmed that Lawrence Powell, who recently accepted appointment to the City of Pensacola as Administrator of Neighborhoods, resigned his post as Vice President of CNAPP. A discussion ensued regarding his replacement on the executive board. Rand recommended Scot Abel, Port Royal's HOA president, be nominated to replace Lawrence as Vice President. Rand asked for the general membership to offer agreement. Sam Mathews made a motion that Scot Abel be named Vice President, which was seconded by David Del Gallo. It passed unanimously.

## **Progress Report**

Nominations for the Executive Team will be made in October.

We are exploring GIS to capture more data about neighborhood demographics to enable us to better define the composition of neighborhoods and inform action within them in the way best suited to them. Among the neighborhoods which are interested in CNAPP involvement are Cordova Park, East Pensacola Heights, the area south of Bayou Boulevard (also in the larger

Cordova Park area), and the West Pointe Heritage area, which might include yet unorganized areas north and northwest of its current boundaries. The Fricker Resource Center might have a role to play in the latter.

Rand presented draft materials of what a CNAPP Newsletter might look like. It included a recent encounter: while biking downtown, Rand saw Rita Jones in North Hill carrying a gigantic bag and picking up trash on Blount Street. She does it three times per week. Rita serves on the NH board, too. Sam Mathews suggested that the neighborhoods can offer stories of their own for posting on our website, and his idea was warmly approved by our membership.

We also reviewed a handbook detailing fundamental steps for neighborhood development. We looked at a printed 4-page test version, but it would be expanded into an 8-page mini-booklet and ultimately placed on our website as a downloadable file in either a PDF format or as an interactive e-book (e-pub) if membership approves. There was strong enthusiasm and interest in these materials, as with the trifold brochure before, so our work will continue on these.

We touched on the topic of our Trash Talk idea again. We could offer a small cash award or redeemable gift certificate from a local eatery to incentivize neighborhoods to work towards trash collection in parks. CNAPP could sponsor the event in alignment with Nation Cleanup Day, which this year is 21 September, so a bit too close for current planning. More, we could focus on the city parks as lynchpins for developing neighborhood health at all levels.

Rand distributed printed information again about Voter Registration volunteering, and encouraged everyone interested to contact Traci Bradford with the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections Office at 850-595-3900.

We will begin collecting \$25 membership fees from neighborhood associations in January 2020.

## **Open Forum**

Scot Abel observed that the bike lanes newly established in the road diet on Palafox Street are placed between traffic and parked cars, which is dangerous for cyclists. The lanes should have been nearest the curb with parking spaces adjoining the roadway. That led to a discussion too about A Street's intended two-way bike lanes in its proposed road diet. As to how to effect change, we agreed that forming a cohesive plan is key, and that should include talking to City Council members, the Administration's various members, discussions with the traffic engineer, and addressing the Council directly at a general meeting.

Code Enforcement can be contacted about trash enforcement. 3-1-1 is a great resource for all complaints to start a paper trail for trash enforcement. Florida Fish and Wildlife can also be called if it is a food source for wildlife, due to it is illegal to feed the wildlife and that can be considered another complaint resource.

#### **Special Presentation**

We enjoyed a presentation from Florida Fish and Wildlife's Elizabeth Heikkinen. She is one of 6 wildlife biologists on staff to assist in wildlife issues, aside from alligators. Their department receives 15,000 calls per year, and their job is to assist the public in conflict with wildlife.

The coyote and fox populations are increasing in the Escambia County and Pensacola area. They are a permanent presence. Coyotes began entering the South in the 1930s as the wolf was eradicated. An adult coyote's typical size is 20-30 pounds, thin in appearance with pointy ears and bushy tails that point straight back. They have adapted to human civilization and cannot now be eliminated. We can best control their populations by removing their food sources. Elizabeth offered these suggestions:

## Remove Food Sources

1. Secure garbage and make it unavailable as a food source.

2. Outdoor cats are a large focus for these animals along with other wildlife.

3. Outdoor feeding of domestic animals, compost, and bird feeders (think squirrels and small rodents) are inviting to coyotes and foxes.

#### Deter/Scare Wildlife Safely

- 1. Water sprayers
- 2. Critter Gitter

3. Loud noises —use car alarms, car horns, air horns, shout, motion detectors with alarms, etc. It does not take much to scare off wildlife. Be consistent and don't be fearful: be educated.

Please visit the FWC website: it's great reference, very friendly, and easy to use. You can find it at <u>https://myfwc.com</u>.

#### **Next Meeting**

9 September 2020 at 6PM at the Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Resource Center, 913 South I Street, Pensacola, FL 32502.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Agnew Secretary