

St. Petersburg Downtown Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
Cathedral Church of St. Peter
February 9, 2022
Approved Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Karen Carmichael called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
2. **President's Introduction:** Karen outlined the purpose of the meeting and discussed the Community Neighborhood Partnership Grants, with focus on improvements at Williams Park
3. **Speaker:** There were three presentations during the meeting:
 - a. **Police Downtown Deployment:** Sergeant Thomas Qualey, head of the Downtown Deployment task force updated the meeting on recent statistics and took questions about noise, the homeless, and other issues of concern.
 - b. **PATH:** Sergeant Mehmedin Karic, representing PATH (Police Assisting the Homeless) discussed the seasonal uptick in the homeless population and what the SPPD is able to do to meet the problem, which has been complicated by the fact that several of the usual referral agencies have limited intake because of the COVID situation.
 - c. **Plans for the Park:** Bryan Eichler, Assistant Director the Parks and Recreation Department, outlined the current state of Williams Park, concentrating on the bandstand, and plans which have been drafted to repair and upgrade the facility. He also outlined costs for the work, and Council Member Gina Driscoll spoke to the Council's role in the improvement and how she and other Council members would need public support to secure necessary funding.
4. **Brainstorming Session:** Following the presentations, tables conducted brainstorming discussions, developing ideas about what might be done to upgrade the park and make it more accessible and useful to the public. Results of the discussion are appended to these minutes in the form of an idea tree, prepared by Scott Clark.
5. **Adjournment:** After a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Phillips, Secretary

