

Minutes
St. Petersburg Downtown Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
July 10, 2019
7:00 PM – St . Peter’s Episcopal Church

Approved Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.
2. **Establish a Quorum:** Quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting:** After a motion, second, and voice vote, minutes of the Annual Meeting of April 2019 General Meeting, were approved.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer’s Report is appended to these minutes.
5. **Amendment of By-laws:** After a motion and second, the General Membership unanimously approved changes in the by-laws, as proposed by the Board.

6. **Program:**

Captain Travis Kantaskas, of the St. Petersburg Fire and Rescue, gave an overview of procedures followed by the Department in event of 911 calls, which units are dispatched, the role of each unit, and the triage procedures, which guide police, fire, and EMT units dispatched.

Phil Graham, of the Waterfront Parks Foundation, explained the role of the organization, updated recent changes and proposals, and asked for continued interest and support from DNA members and Board in preventing incursions and diminishment of the waterfront parks. He also outlined several current proposals and the negotiations that his organization is holding with the City to clarify some zoning and land-use issues.

Sergeant Ryan Hilsdon, head of a relatively newly-formed squad within the St. Petersburg Police Department (PATH: Police Assisting the Homeless), explained the role of his unit in making outreach contact with homeless individuals, often living in the woods, and connecting them with community resources. Though less than a year old, the unit has already had more than 2000 contacts with homeless individuals, which he estimates to be approximately 50% of the total population, though exact numbers are hard to estimate.

Whitney Fox, head of communications for PSTA, explained the latest updates in the proposed BRT service between downtown St. Pete and the beaches.

Finally, Evan Mory and his staff, outlined the steps that the city is taking to deal with the projected influx of motorized scooters, particularly aimed at minimizing some of the problems with have plagued the introduction in Tampa and other cities, nationwide. Firms will only be allowed to operate after responding to RFP's, which stipulate the rules the City is establishing to guide operation and maintenance of the scooters.

Following the presentations, Council Member Gina Driscoll moderated a round of questions posted by the audience, elaborating on the Council's and City's roles and stances on each of the topics.

7. **Announcements.** Karen announced the donation of items to St. Peter's project to collect school supplies from members for needy youngers. She also noted that a lunchtime "Pals" program was recruiting new mentors and that the DNA would be working to help them. She also reminded members that we had made a donation to the Waterfront Parks Foundation.
8. **Adjournment:** After motion and second, the meeting was adjourned by voice-vote at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Phillips
Secretary