2023 CCNA Neighborhood Summit (a draft)

The goal of the Neighborhood Summit, held in October 2023 was to identify the issues facing our community's neighborhoods and glean from that list a set of priorities that CCNA (both the Board and the Membership) can tackle through initiatives and action plan solutions.

In reviewing these items, it is helpful to keep CCNA's Purpose in mind:

> *To protect and enhance city neighborhoods. The coalition shall address the needs of neighborhoods and stand in support of these needs. The coalition shall consider action when requested by a neighborhood and shall work with the City Commission in a cooperative spirit.*

The CCNA Board only participated as facilitators in the Summit, none of the specific items came from them. The 150 points that were identified came directly from the neighborhood representatives that attended the Summit. Those points were summarized into 15 groups by Kathy Kelly Olrich. Those 15 groups with subpoints were given to the neighborhoods present at the November member meeting to be priority ranked. 19 neighborhoods returned their rankings of the groups to Ron Kashden who compiled those results. Ron assigned 15 points for the #1 priority, 14 points for the #2 priority, etc. Those rankings based on that prioritization and the raw data numbers were published on the CCNA website in November.

Following that raw data ranking the groupings were massaged for consistency and clarification, with duplications eliminated and some subpoints moved from one group to another. Because of the similarity in issues the #10 Communication Group and the #14 Internal Support Group were combined and renamed CCNA Communication. We also analyzed the neighborhood rankings by district and proximity to each other to see if there were any patterns and didn't find anything of significance.

We also did additional analysis using how many neighborhoods had a group in their top 3 and in their top 5. These and the original ranking Ron Kashden did have similar results. Using the number of neighborhoods that rank a group in their top 5, and weighting them (5 points for #1, 4 points for #2, etc.) the issues identified by the Summit are:

The numbers following the group is its weighted rank points and the number of neighborhoods ranking the issue in their top 5.

- 1   Health and Safety   45   13

- 2   Code Compliance   38   13

- T3   Infrastructure   33   10
     T3   Hotel Houses / Vacation Rentals   33   9

- 5   Development Services   29   9
- 6   Meaningful Neighborhood Input   28   10
- 7   Planning   25   11

Following these 8 there was a significant drop-off in how many neighborhoods ranked the issue in their top 5:

- 8   City General   18   5
- 9   CCNA Communication   13   3
- 10   Other   8   4
- 11   Economic Stability   5   2
- 12   County   5   1
- 13   Bobby Jones   3   1
- 14   Parks   2   2

Obviously, there isn't enough resources to tackle the 150+ identified items all at once. The CCNA Board with the help of volunteer members will fine tune the definitions and outline solutions based on the priority assigned by the neighborhoods. Taking a closer look at each group:

1. Health (Pollution) and Safety

- **Ranked #1 by Alta Vista, Avondale, Central Coconut, and Bayou Oaks, #2 by St. Armands, IBSS, and San Remo and #3 by Bay Point Park, Glen Oaks Ridge, and Gillespie Park**

The issues are focused on quality of life in their neighborhoods and the sense that the neighborhoods are not as secure and safe as they could be.

- Vehicular
    - Speeding
    - Traffic Calming
    - Cut through.
    - Trucks on residential streets (not servicing the neighborhood).
- Pedestrian safety:
    - Cross walks / sidewalks / walkability
    - Street lighting not repaired.
    - Restrooms closed in parks.
    - Too few Hawk Signals
- Pollution - Air quality
    - Toxicity
- Pollution - Noise
    - Trucks on residential streets
    - Muscle Cars
    - Industrial
    - Construction
- Pollution - Visual
    - Stub electrical/utility poles - city to hold utilities accountable to remove
    - Homelessness
- Police

- o Morale
- o Presence
- o Updating Tools

The Vehicular. Pedestrian and Pollution items will need to be identified and solutions designed on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, requiring leadership and specific involvement from the neighborhoods. Some solutions may apply to additional neighborhoods. The Board's District Reps should serve as facilitators.

The items with the Police are much more complex. It would be a natural assumption that this item is a criticism of the police, and it absolutely is not. CCNA should form a taskforce which includes Police, City Staff, and Neighborhood reps to identify the issues and come up with solutions.

2. Code Compliance / Enforcement
- o **Ranked #1 by Laurel Park and Bird Key, #2 by Hudson Bayou, Gillespie Park, Central Coconut and #3 by St. Armands and San Remo.**

The responsibility for Code Compliance and Code Enforcement is very confusing to both our residents, and particularly our tourists. They have no idea "who you gonna call". No one department has Code Enforcement responsibility, rather responsibilities are split between Code Compliance, Public Works, Parks and Rec, Risk Management, Utilities, Parking, the Police, and others. To effectively report a violation, it is imperative to know which department handles what code violations. Click-2-Fix does assist with those items handled by the app in forwarding those reports to the proper department but Click-2-Fix is a new app and only a relatively few residents have it on their phones and even less tourists.

- o General lack of trust of Code Compliance
- o Enforcement varies by District.
- o Public Input Discouraged (No anonymity)
- o Hotel Houses/Vacation Rentals, no enforcement of "more than 7 days minimum"
- o Not enough use of Click-to-Fix – need to get more people to use, promote and educate.
- o Code Compliance – Zoning seems to only apply at point of development review.
- o Enforcement is "reactive" and not "proactive".
- o Current process forces neighbors to turn in other neighbors.
- o No follow-up on conditions once a development is completed.
    - ▪ Example: No Right Turn out of Selby - WAS PROMISED

Because of its complexity and the need to involve significant City Staff, this group will be an initiative.

2/11/2024

3. Infrastructure

- **Ranked #1 by McClellan Park and Gillespie Park, #2 by Park East, Lido Key, Bayou Oaks, and Avondale and #3 by Alta Vista.**

This group's items are focused on public works and express concern for our aging infrastructure and what seems to residents to be a lack of directed focus on the largest issues.

- Flooding
- Intersection at Golden Gate and John Ringling Blvd
- Water Quality
- Street Maintenance
- Reserve portion of property taxes for infrastructure below standards
- Cross walks / sidewalks
- Safety - parking lots / not enough

Because of its complexity and the need to involve significant City Staff, this group will become an initiative (as resources permit).

4. Hotel Houses / Vacation Rentals

- **Ranked #1 by St. Armands, Lido Key, and Glen Oaks Ridge, #2 by Alta Vista, Tahiti Park, and Bird Key and #3 by Laurel Park**

With the recent City Commission action to make Chapter 34.5 citywide, a lot of the concerns have been mitigated but not totally resolved. Short term vacation rentals permitted in our residential neighborhoods have had a significant detrimental effect on the barrier island neighborhoods and even with the registration process will do the same in many other neighborhoods.

- Loss of neighborhood identity
- Loss of the feeling of community, no sense of having neighbors
- Loss of residential longer-term housing

There are a lot of dynamics in play, and it will take time to move the short-term rentals to longer term vacation rentals (for a month or for a season). This group would be best served by a task force that includes City Staff, Realtors and Property Managers with the goal of examining the economics and identifying options.

5. Development Services

- **Ranked #1 by San Remo and Tahiti Park, #2 by Laurel Park, and #3 by IBSS, Towles Court, and Hudson Bayou**

There is a general mistrust that the application review process adheres to any set of standards. Although the Meaningful Neighborhood Input Committee has made significant progress in

bringing neighborhoods into the application process, the bulk of that effort has not produced significant enough changes for all neighborhoods to experience.

- o Too many Projects approved in close proximity.
- o Too many adjustments
- o Poor review of development applications
- o Incompatible Commercial encroachment into residential neighborhoods
- o Ignoring compatibility when reviewing projects

This group may be best accomplished as an adjunct to the existing Meaningful Input initiative. Education of neighborhoods of the changes that are already in place will help significantly. That training was scheduled for last fall and for several reasons was postponed. A new schedule should be announced very soon. As pointed out, there are aspects of the Comp Plan that are not specifically being considered in the review process, the biggest one being "Compatibility". This group will be assigned to the existing Meaningful Input initiative.

6. Meaningful Neighborhood Input
- o **Ranked #1 by Towles Court and Glen Oaks Estates, #2 by Bay Point Park, and #3 by McClellan Park and Tahiti Park**

Meaningful Neighborhood Input is an ongoing CCNA initiative. Although some progress is reaping benefits, there are still a lot of issues that have not yet been tackled. Some of them appeared in the prior group, Development Services, and some of the following items are new to the MI effort. The goal of MI is to give the neighborhoods a voice in the development process.

- o Starting at DRC Level
- o More Retail downtown but not chains
- o Give Neighborhoods input on budget allocation.
- o Location of public art
- o More budget focus on neighborhood priorities

This group will be assigned to the existing Meaningful Input initiative. The CCNA Board will decide logistics, but the MI effort will expand to include more neighborhood representatives. NOTE: If we combined Development Services and Meaningful Input in a single group, it would rank #1, ahead of Health and Safety.

7. Planning
- o **Ranked #1 by Bay Point Park, #2 by McClellan Park, and #3 by Bayou Oaks and Glen Oaks Estates**

Ironic that the items in this group are being echoed by comments we have recently heard in the currently ongoing Architecture Sarasota's guest lecture series: DOWNTOWN SARASOTA: HINDSIGHT, INSIGHT, AND FORESIGHT. The assumption is that changes in the Planning Process

and focus will take place. All neighborhoods have a vested interest in this and will need to stay involved.

- o   Shade Trees
- o   Complete walkable sidewalks
- o   Density / Comp Plan

This group identifies Planning concerns, but its priority does not merit near future resources. This group may be elevated as focus on Comp Plan and ZTA's develop.

8.   City General
- o   **Ranked #1 by IBSS, and Hudson Bayou, #2 by Glen Oaks Ridge, and #3 by Avondale**

There is a general feeling that although the Commissioners create and staff its advisory boards the is a disconnect between what those boards recommend and the actions the commission takes.

- o   City Staffing - more staff and ensuring paying market salaries.
- o   Consistency when City Commission reviews advisory board decisions
- o   Retaliation for city District 3 commissioner / reactive

This group identifies City General concerns, but its priority does not merit near future resources.

9.   CCNA Communication
- o   **Ranked #1 (none), #2 by Towles Court and Glen Oaks Estates, and #3 by Lido Key**

The Summit provided an opportunity for the membership to comment on the activities of the CCNA Board.

- o   Ask Candidates to speak to CCNA.
- o   Interaction Between City, County, other agencies
- o   Ask Commissioners to attend, participate in CCNA.
- o   Email overloads and late communication.
- o   Lack of support for Neighborhoods with Non-CCNA issues
- o   Lack of nurturing younger people to the city and to CCNA
- o   Lack of CCNA being pro-active on issues

Although this group has a low priority compared to other issues, it is in the direct control of the Board, and they will discuss these items and make adjustments accordingly.

10. Other
- o   **Ranked #1 (none), #2(none), and #3 by Park East, Central Coconunt**

This a miscellaneous group with items not consistent for other groups

- o Digital Age - with responsible response
- o Green Conservation - sustainable city
- o Loss of County Building
- o Hold City Accountable
- o Trash - need.

This group identifies Other concerns, but its priority does not merit near future resources.

11. Economic Stability

- o **Ranked #1 (none), #2(none), and #3 by Bird Key**

A suggestion.

- o No Conference Center

This group identifies an Economic Stability concern, but its priority does not merit near future resources.

12. County

- o **Ranked #1 by Park East, #2 (none), and #3 (none)**

A suggestion for additional mass transportation.

- o Adjust bus schedules for more use across neighborhoods.

This group identifies a County concern, but its priority does not merit near future resources.

13. Bobby Jones

- o **Ranked #1 (none), #2 (none), and #3 (none)**

A suggestion to keep the next phase of Bobby Jones in focus.

- o Legacy Trail Connection
- o Final Plans

This group identifies a Bobby Jones concern, but its priority does not merit near future resources.

14. Parks

- o **Ranked #1 (none), #2 (none), and #3 (none)**

A suggestion regarding our Parks.

- o Too few permits for park use.

- o too few "poo stations" for dogs

This group identifies a Parks concern, but its priority does not merit near future resources.

In conclusion, the summit was instrumental in identifying issues and concerns of our neighborhoods. Moving forward on the items will require resources and not just Board members, but many members of our CCNA Member family in either a committee or leadership role.

Presidents, Delegates and Alternates, let any Board member know what issue you want to help identify the problem and work on solutions. If you have someone in your neighborhood that you can help with solutions and has the time let a board member know. Likewise, if you have any questions the Board is here to help.