CCNA Membership Meeting - Draft

Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations of Sarasota, Inc.

Call to Order

- Meeting convened at 9:06 AM.

Introductory Remarks

- Members and guests were welcomed.
- Guests were reminded that questions during presentations should be directed through neighborhood representatives seated at the table.
- The CCNA Executive Board's position opposing Amendment 3 was shared with members.
- Information regarding the parkland referendum was also available.
- Members were reminded that the new CCNA community/neighborhood calendar is live on the website.
- Reminder provided regarding deadlines for 2026 Neighborhood Award nominations and applications to serve on the 2027 CCNA Board.
- Members were encouraged to bring gently used books, particularly children's books, to the November meeting for donation.

Recognition / Special Guests

Special guests included:

- Vice Mayor Kathy Kelley Ohlrich
- Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch
- Commissioner Liz Alpert
- Sarasota County Commissioner Mark Smith and Esther Smith
- Deputy City Manager Jennifer Jorgensen
- Sarasota City Attorney Joe Polzak
- Neighborhood Planner Nancy Kelly
- Karen Arriaga, Chief Transportation Planner
- Nina Vinter, Senior Transportation Planner
- Diane Kennedy, Code Compliance
- Whitney Kosta, Code Compliance
- Allison Christie, Development Services
- Sarasota Police Department representatives, including Officer John Lake

Approval of September 12, 2026 Membership Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Dennis Bishop.
- Second by Jody Geiger.
- Approved unanimously.

Police Report

- Sarasota Police Department reviewed September crime statistics and year-to-date comparisons with 2025.
- Members were reminded of available police resources and crime-prevention information.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer reported a balance of approximately **$5,296.82**.
- No unusual expenses were reported for the month.

Officer and Area Director Reports

- No additional officer or Area Director reports were presented.

Committee Reports

- **Neighborhood Safety / Traffic Study**
    - Norm DeBeng reported that CCNA's traffic study was in its second round.
    - Work with the remaining neighborhoods was expected to be completed by the end of October.

Special Presentations

Sound Ordinance / Sound Study Update

Presenter: Sarasota City Attorney Joe Polzak

- The City is using an evidence-based process to evaluate Sarasota's noise regulations and determine potential changes.
- Phase One of the City's three-phase sound study has been completed.
- Phase One included:
    - Seven days of measurements around the July 4 period.
    - Eight long-term sound meters placed at residential properties.
    - Sound measurements in multiple areas of the city.
    - A citywide survey receiving approximately 1,500 responses.
    - Stakeholder engagement before and after the field work.

- Survey results showed vehicle-related noise among the most frequently identified concerns, followed by construction noise. Amplified music ranked below those categories.
- Sound measurements showed substantial differences in ambient/background sound levels between different parts of Sarasota.
- The data may support a future **zone-based approach** to sound regulation rather than applying one identical standard throughout the city.
- Phase Two will include additional measurements during the City's busier seasonal period.
- Vehicle noise enforcement was discussed separately from fixed-location or amplified-business noise.
- Existing Florida statutes addressing amplified vehicle sound and operating/engine noise are legally enforceable, but the City will use Phase Two to determine how practical they are to enforce operationally.
- Sarasota Police Department will be involved in evaluating and implementing vehicle-noise enforcement.
- No final sound ordinance has been adopted. Additional data, legal analysis, Commission direction and public input will occur before final recommendations are made.

Citywide Traffic Calming Plan

Presenters: Karen Arriaga, Nina Vinter and Transportation Planning staff

- Transportation Planning provided an update on the City's draft Traffic Calming Plan.
- The plan was developed through public engagement, speed studies, data analysis and a project-ranking process.
- Projects were scored using factors including crash and complaint history, observed speeding, community input, feasibility and project cost.
- The draft citywide plan includes approximately **372 traffic-calming projects**, with approximately 98% located on local streets.
- An interactive map allows residents to review individual projects, proposed solutions, estimated costs and anticipated implementation periods.
- Projects are organized into future funding years based on priority and available resources.
- The City's penny sales tax includes funding dedicated to traffic calming.
- For FY 2026–27, approximately **$100,000** is allocated toward replacing or installing speed-limit signs as the City implements its reduction of qualifying local streets from 25 mph to **20 mph**.
- Approximately 400 street segments were approved for the reduced speed limit.
- Staff is determining how many signs must be replaced or newly installed before rollout begins.
- Future traffic-calming projects will be phased in based on available funding.
- Additional potential funding strategies discussed included:
    - accumulating annual funds for larger projects;

    - special assessment districts;
    - possible dedicated funding mechanisms;
    - and coordination with new development where projects may contribute to nearby transportation improvements.
- Staff expects to bring the finalized Traffic Calming Plan to the City Commission later this fall.

Code Compliance Committee Kickoff

Presenter: Leslie Spangler

- The new CCNA Code Compliance Committee was formally introduced.
- Committee members include Leslie Spangler, Eileen Norville and Kelly Brown.
- The committee's mission is to serve as a collaborative liaison between neighborhoods and the City while maintaining a **non-enforcement role**.
- The committee will support code and process improvements that are fair, consistent and effective while protecting public safety, property values and neighborhood quality of life.
- Initial objectives include:
    - serving as a communication bridge between neighborhoods and the City;
    - improving resident understanding of how to report possible violations;
    - gathering neighborhood input and data;
    - identifying outdated, unclear or difficult-to-enforce codes;
    - examining how City departments interact on code-enforcement matters;
    - reviewing the magistrate process;
    - identifying opportunities to improve communication with complainants;
    - examining case-resolution timelines;
    - and recommending code or process improvements when appropriate.
- A neighborhood survey is planned to identify the code-enforcement issues of greatest concern across Sarasota neighborhoods.
- Residents were directed to the Code Compliance section of the CCNA website, which includes links to City resources and information about Click2Fix.

Neighborhood Reports

- Deputy City Manager Jennifer Jorgensen provided City updates and responded to neighborhood questions.
- Neighborhood representatives provided updates on projects, meetings, development issues and upcoming community events.
- Members were reminded that neighborhood information and events can be submitted for inclusion on CCNA communication channels.
- Several neighborhoods discussed ongoing infrastructure, traffic, development and community-engagement matters.

City–County / Stormwater Follow-Up

- CCNA reported that four Board members attended the recent joint City–County Commission meeting.
- CCNA advocated for faster action on stormwater maintenance and continued protection of public parkland.
- Additional follow-up with County Commissioner Mark Smith regarding stormwater issues was anticipated.

Announcements / Upcoming Meetings

- The **November membership meeting** will include a presentation on **e-bike safety**.
- CCNA is also working to schedule an FDOT presentation regarding a future corridor project so neighborhoods can review the plans and provide input.
- Members were reminded to bring gently used books, especially children's books, to the November meeting.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned following neighborhood reports and announcements.
- Exact adjournment time was not clearly captured in the meeting transcript.

Next Membership Meeting: November 2026 – Bayfront Community Center

- E-bike Safety
- Additional program items to be announced