

# Thompson-Hunter Neighborhood Association

## *Neighborhood Meeting*

*Meeting Notes // April 15, 2013, 6:30 pm*

**Location: Mt. Sinai Church (301 S. Swain St.)**

**Attendance: 13**

Courtney Hodgson, Chair, welcomed neighbors, led group introductions, and gave an overview of the THNA.

Courtney then began the business portion of the meeting by offering the following updates:

- **Matching Grant Survey Results**

Fall Festival won the neighborhood vote at 45.7%. Neighborhood Trash Cans came in at 19.6%, and the Community Garden and Neighborhood Signs tied at 15.2%.

Through the generosity of the Food Shuttle and neighborhood interest, we could potentially move forward with a community garden as well! (see notes below)

The new board will convene in May, and we hope to re-apply for the City's Neighborhood Improvement Grant in July, so we'll continue this Matching Grant conversation at our June 17th meeting. If you want to help with this process or have additional ideas, please email us at [info@thompson-hunter.org](mailto:info@thompson-hunter.org) in the mean time.

- **Neighborhood Clean-Ups**

Our last neighborhood clean-up was on March 2 and we had a pretty good turn out: 10 adults and 8 kids. We covered Davie St. Park, Davie St., Martin St. and Winters Park.

Join us for our next neighborhood clean-up, May 4 at 9 AM. We'll meet at Davie St. Park for donuts and coffee and disperse to clean up from there.

## **Community Garden Update Through InterFaith Food Shuttle**

Maurice Small, from the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle (IFFS) presented information about the Food Shuttle and gave us more information about their food system project:

Maurice shared that he'd like to see the first item of our association's mission statement changed from "enhance safety and security" to "ensure kids have healthy environments and food systems," because he believes crime diminishes when gardens go in.

The Food Shuttle has partnered with Will Jeffers, who owns the property at 812 E Martin St., to start a garden. They want to teach people how to grow food, instead of just giving it to them. They now employ three young people who are ex-offenders, and they're showing them that urban agriculture is a possibility for them.

The garden is currently being rehabbed and will be re-planted in two weeks. They purchased additional land from Rev. Hardy's church and have plans to expand the garden to the plot on Camden that was a garden in the past (a future community garden site).

They are seeking additional donations of land and yards for gardens. They have the expertise and the workforce

to manage the garden.

Maurice emphasized the importance for neighbors to plant flowers, which encourage bees to pollinate and help things grow.

Neighbors are welcome to come and work in the gardens and eat from their efforts. (The best way to enter the garden area is on the side by the church.) For neighbors who want to get involved, he's happy to train them, so he doesn't have to be there and they can work at their leisure.

Contact Maurice Small at [maurice@foodshuttle.org](mailto:maurice@foodshuttle.org) / 216.849.8224.

## **Board Elections**

Courtney gave a brief overview of the board's responsibilities, the benefits of serving, and encouraged neighbors to consider serving.

She then listed the current & new board roles and offered a brief explanation of each role:

Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Member-at-Large (if needed), CAC Chair (*new*), Community Watch Chair (*new*), and Technology & Communication Chair (*new*).

Courtney gave a brief summary of the time commitment that's involved for serving: 4 Neighborhood Meetings, 4 Neighborhood Clean-Ups, Fall Festival, Dinner & Diversity, About 4 Board Meetings (dependant on board & current needs), and specific role responsibilities.

Courtney then opened up the floor for nominations: Lindsay shared that she and Courtney (along with Courtney's husband, Brad, who serves along with Courtney) offered to serve again, and mentioned that Jessica Shore, who couldn't attend due to work, would be happy to serve as well.

Glenda Graham expressed interest in helping out, but didn't want to commit to the board. Arthur Graham offered to help with Community Watch. Aric Sanoff offered to serve, and so did Bernadette Arai. Selena Reece mentioned that she'd be happy to help out with smaller projects and that her husband, Stephen Reece, may be interested in the Technology board role. They'll talk and let the board know.

All association members in attendance were in favor of the nominations and thus the following association members will serve on the THNA Board for the 2013 - 2014 term: Lindsay Jordan, Brad & Courtney Hodgson, Jessica Shore, Arthur Graham, Aric Sanoff, Bernadette Arai, and potentially Stephen Reece.

The new board will meet in May to appoint specific board roles and begin their service from there until April 2014.

*Additional Comment:* Mary Brooks mentioned a school traffic issue around Moore Square, and Mary Humphrey offered to make a call to figure out what's going on.

## **Next Neighborhood Events**

- May 4: Neighborhood Clean-Up, 9 AM @ Davie St. Park
- June 17: Neighborhood Meeting, 6:30 PM @ (most likely Mt. Sinai, but needs to be confirmed)