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FOREST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2008

Submitted by Chuck Seigel, FHNA Secretary

The regular meeting of the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association was held on February 12, 2008 at the Forest Hills Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. After a moment of silence, members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduced were Officer Adkins, Sergeant Preston and Lisa Timmer, all from the Tampa Police Department (TPD).

The theme of the meeting was "Wine and Chocolate" coinciding with Valentine's Day. Mary Mooney presented a door prize of chocolate candy.

President's Report:

The City of Tampa's Paint Your Heart Out program is scheduled for April 19th. FHNA volunteers will be painting two homes in our neighborhood. Contact Marilyn Green for questions or to volunteer.

The code enforcement committee has an opening; please see Jessie Brown if interested. Contact information can be found on www.fhna-online.org. Back yard fences should be no higher than 6 feet and front yard fences no higher than 4 feet per City codes.

Clean City Day will be held on March 29, 2008.

Our first neighborhood picnic, "Golfopalooza", is currently being planned and more details will appear in the May newsletter. It is a huge undertaking with music, bands, moonwalks, face painting and activities for the children. It is tentatively scheduled for May 18, 2008 right next to the Babe Zaharias Clubhouse so you can walk or drive. The event is planned from 2 - 6:00pm. Bring your whole family. For more information see or call Debra McCormack at 935-8488.

A website, www.golfopalooza.com will be constructed for the event information. Check it continually for updates.

Presentations:

Mary Mooney introduced our first guest speaker Valentina Ludert, co-owner of Schokolad Chocolate Factory located at 408 South Howard Avenue in Tampa. In Valentina's extensive experience, the best cocoa beans come from Venezuela, and she educated the membership about the differences in quality in chocolate. Schokolad donated several delectable door prizes and passed out two heart samples of both light and dark chocolate as well. The store is open from 10-6pm on Monday – Thursday and on the weekends as well from 11-6pm on Friday & Saturday.

Keeping with the theme "Romancing the Neighborhood", the second guest speaker Mike Galantino, a Forest Hills resident and owner of Gino's Restaurant. He has recently opened a new wine shop next to the restaurant and Mike gave our group a very informative talk about the various types and varieties of wines. Everyone is encouraged all to visit his new Wine Shoppe as wine tastings will be held monthly, and will include hors de oeuvres. Sign up in advance at the Shoppe and get on his event email list.

Mr. Galantino was kind enough to raffle away six bottles of wine and a \$25 gift certificate to Gino's Restaurant. There was a raffle held for a floral arrangement from Artistic Florist, another local business.

Secretary's Report:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting. Monte Belote made a friendly motion to correct the 3rd paragraph wording (that Jessie Brown spoke...), seconded by Debra McCormack. The minutes were approved as amended.

Old Business:

President Jesse Brown reported that the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department does not have the money to provide a dog park in the neighborhood. Funding is also short for a new club house.

Crime Watch:

Jerry Keith had handouts at the Crime Watch table. He warned that some one is canvassing the neighborhood with home improvement scams, and advised to not let them in your house. If you are going to travel, the police can be informed and perform drive bys while you are on vacation.

If you see suspicious activities, call the police. If it's not happening right now, you can call the non-emergency line at 813-231-6130.

TPD Officer Lisa Timmer spoke about Life Save, child molestation and abduction. For more information, please see Jerry Keith, the director of Crime Watch.

Chef's Award:

Larry Mize thanked all who brought food for this evening's meeting, and presented the Chef's Award to Donna Knott for her dessert roll-ups.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.