

Pine Hills Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) Advisory Council Minutes

Meeting: Pine Hills Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) Advisory Council

Date & Place Wednesday, 10.2.24

Pine Hills Community Center, 6408 Jennings Rd, Orlando, FL 32818

Time: 6: 00 p.m.- 7:15 p.m.

“Track by” **Date** **Description**
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For
Record

Visitors

Artena Greene, West Orange Chamber of Commerce
Brian Harris, OVUSN
Captain Ashley Strange, Orange County Sheriff's Office
Daisy Townsend, Pine Hills Community Center
JC Walker, Resident
Tracey Green, Orange County – Code Enforcement
Harmoni Houser, Orange County – Code Enforcement
Kenneth Dwyer, Pine Hills Safe Neighborhoods Partnership
Onetha Mason, Center Supervisor, Pine Hills Community Center
Dr. Latanya Nichols-Pine Hills Safe Neighborhoods
Carolyn McMorrان-Valencia College AST
Dave Giordano-Valencia College AST

Welcome

Call to Order: 6: 00 p.m. Quorum was not met.

Public Comment

Kenneth Dwyer shared that they had their biggest attendance to date for National Night Out. They had about 100-120 in attendance.

In Attendance

Pine Hills Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) Advisory Council:

In – Person: Michael Strayhorn, Chair

Staff: Tamara Johnson, Ilisa Patterson

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Mr. JC. Walker shared that he is happy about the information received regarding Beautification grants and pleased with the help completing the Robinswood application for refurbishing their existing sign.

Approval of Minutes

Quorum was not met.

Community Updates

Code Compliance

Inspector Tracy Greene says everything has been smooth except for the complaints and someone calling in under Pine Hills NID and Pine Hills Safe Neighborhood. They don't leave a name or number. The officers are not allowed to address the complaints due to safety issues. She reiterated that someone could be the spokesperson, but they would need to leave contact information to be able to address the complaints. Ken asked about a violation he took a picture of on Silver Star Road of a closed gas station. She advised him to contact the Department of Agriculture to have the issue addressed. Due to it being gas pumps, the county can't address it. Dr. Nichols is receiving calls about code issues. She asked if there were other things that needed to be in place to get answers. People can request extensions. Nuisance complaints can take 15 days. Code compliance sends certified mail, and due dates are based on the date the letter is signed. The best solution is for the resident to get in touch with the code compliance officer.

OCSO

Captain Strange will be interviewed by channel 6 regarding Pine Hills. Crime is down overall in the area and in Pine Hills. She reminded residents not to leave keys and bags in their cars. Tamara spoke about a group of individuals sending out letters about the County taking houses. There is a link to utilize to get more information. She requested a copy of a letter from a resident that did receive a letter. Residents who are vulnerable are receiving the letters. She asked that people take pictures of the letters so she can be in contact with the residents to reassure them that their houses and property will not be taken by the County. Captain Strange spoke about avoiding scams. She warned not give out money, passwords, etc. Call 911 if you feel someone is in danger. Ms. Onetha spoke on the Caribbean Sunshine parking lot and the amount of people congregating. Captain Strange brought up the trespassing program initiated in the Bravo parking lot. She said people do not have to leave the parking lot if the establishment does not request it. There is a diversion center in Ocoee. They offer resources for those in need through Orange County.

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NID Staff Update

Executive Director announced that she has a new coordinator, Ilisa Patterson. She will send information about the BANC program and the small business week. Pine Hills Community Council will have an employment program on October 16th. They will have clothes and employees will be hiring on the spot.

Chair Michael:

Presentations

Valencia College presented on the Accelerated Skills Training Program. It has been 3 years since the W.D. Judge facility was opened. It is an innovative learning space. It is 80% hands on facility. She spoke on trades and how lucrative it can be if someone can't or doesn't desire to receive a 4-year degree. The trade space work started 10 years ago. Wanted to serve the populations that were underserved. They attempt to help people understand the different trades available. In January there were over 120,000 apartments being built in Central Florida. There are 18 programs offered. There is a construction program within the Orange County Jail that trains inmates prior to them being released. Accelerated Skills Training is a quick turnaround program. The quickest is 4 weeks for truck driving. Over the road drivers can make between \$75 and \$100K. Welding is the longest program at 28 weeks. Hands on is 80%. Students earned 3,453 credentials per year. Small cohorts and partnerships with industry professionals. Major industries are Advanced manufacturing, construction, transportation and logistics, and healthcare. Northwest CAT programs are carpentry, residential maintenance technician, HVAC, Plumbing, Welding, Distribution, and Medical Assistant technician. 29% of the students come from Pine Hills. Valencia College won \$500,000 to set up a plumbing program at Northwest CAT. One of 11 schools around the country. Partner with Mechanical One to create curriculum for HVAC. 501,000 construction workers will be needed in 2025. Metallica has given over \$200,000 in scholarships for the Valencia trades programs. The Plumbing program will launch in 2025. Recruiter will conduct tours. Dr. McMorrان spoke on food insecurity and the need for donations to help with food for students, especially at Northwest CAT. 90% of the students leave the programs debt free. Their student IDs are also Lynx bus passes. Students get a stipend from Heart of Florida United Way. Dave shared that he has a staff of 5 recruiters who act as case workers to help students get in the right programs. There is also a placement team to help get them where they need to be. There is a Career Source satellite office. Electrical Power Technician, CDL, and Medical Assistant programs operate out of the East Orange County area. The student ages range from 17-72. They will also work with returning citizens and through Bridges. They will try and work with those without a high school diploma and encourage them to get a GED. They will recommend them to the UCF Jumpstart program for GED training. They still have capacity.

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Old Business

BANC program. Waiting to hear back from Utilities and the contractor to address the incorrect wording. Late January there will be a ribbon cutting at the round-a-bout to celebrate the things that have been happening. Will go to Amazon, Coca-Cola and Frito-Lay about jobs. Evans High School has a pantry for students. Period Poverty donations are also being requested.

The following information was shared:

New Business

Executive Director asked if anyone is seeing the Constant Contact when its sent out. She emphasized the need to operate as a team with the other Pine Hills interest groups.

Up Orlando has clothing and interview skills for people that are entering the workforce. (Tracy) Septic to Sewer link should be live next week.

Meeting Adjournment

Michael Strayhorn asked for a motion to adjourn. Tracy Green made the motion; Ashley Strange seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7: 15 p.m.

Next NID Meeting – November 6, 2024, at 6:00pm at the Pine Hills Community Center.

Meeting Minutes Certification

Date: _____

Prepared by Ilisa Patterson

Date: _____

Chairperson Michael Strayhorn