

January 2011 Notes from City Hall

Clubhouse Renovation Nearly Complete

The Grand Opening will include an open house celebration to be announced imminently. The renovation included gutting the whole building and the addition of a second bathroom, (although the footprint did not change), a new HVAC system, all new electrical and new kitchen appliances. The building's wonderful wood floor was protected during the renovation, so after a light sanding and new layers of poly it will look like new. Funds were drawn from the City bond to pay for the \$100,000 in renovations done by HomeForge, a company selected through a standard bidding process.

Charter Review

The City's Charter is being studied now by various citizens, in the anticipation of changing certain elements. Study groups have made preliminary reports, and issues have been raised that will be further discussed over the coming months, including Pine Lake's current form of government (currently "Mayor/Council - strong mayor"), the section concerning responsibilities of the Administrator, the process for removal of elected officials, and a change in the City's fiscal year. The task force is being led by Elisabeth Shields, with Karen Bernheimer and Councilperson Kathie deNobriga. To follow the conversation so far, go to <http://plcharterreview.wordpress.com>).

Hopes Dashed

Despite an extraordinary effort by the Mayor and city staff, Pine Lake was NOT chosen by Mercy Senior Housing as the site for a new development. Our thanks go to the team of our citizens and Pine Lake Baptist Church members (Megan Pulsts, Nita Towns, Pastor Pisani and who helped to quickly assemble a steering committee and trust that another opportunity will come our way soon.

Micro-Enterprise in Our BackYard?

A program operated by HUD seeks to create new jobs and small businesses. Inspired by Stone Mountain's recent Arts Incubator project (which created three small galleries on Main Street), Pine Lake is exploring possible activities that would be appropriate for our assets and conditions. Do you have an idea for a small business employing five people or less? (It's great if its arts-centered, but it doesn't have to be.) HUD supplies the start-up money, renovation funds to bring a facility up to speed, and dollars for

marketing and administration. If interested, contact Kathie deNobriga at 404-299-949 8 or kdenbobiga@mindspring.com.

What's the Agenda?

Agendas for all City Council meetings and work sessions are posted on Pine Lake's official website (www.pinelakega.com/), up to a week before each meeting, and also posted on the door of the City offices (the little blue building next to the Court House). Minutes are posted within two working days, also on the web and on the door. Minutes will be posted in draft form, with a summary of actions taken, so that Council and Mayor can review and correct the official minutes at the following council meeting, before they become public record (at which point they'll be posted on the website). If you have any questions about how to stay current with Council plans and actions, talk to City Clerk Valerie Caldwell.

Message from Your Public Works Department.

Put your trash (household items, lawn debris in proper containers, etc.) on the curb on MONDAYS and TUESDAYS for pick-up. Public Works is picking up items only at the beginning of the week (pending holidays and weather).

Town Halls Scheduled for 2011

Every quarter, the City sponsors a Town Hall meeting so that items of concern can be shared and discussed between citizens and city leadership. The City usually proposes two to three items for the agenda, leaving plenty of time to address other citizen concerns. Mark your calendars now for the 2011 Town Halls. This schedule was adopted to afford flexibility to folks with various work schedules and family commitments.

- February 5, Saturday at 11am (Beach House)
- May 12, Thursday at 7:30pm (ClubHouse)
- August 6, Saturday at 11am (Beach House)
- November 10, Thursday at 7:30pm (ClubHouse)

Financial Matters

The 2009 audit has been completed and is available for review at City Hall. The auditor, Cohen Colvard CPA, noted several management items that had been raised initially in 2008, having to do with Council oversight and control. With the assistance of a new City Clerk in April 2009, Mayor and Council have implemented new financial report forms, purchasing policies, stricter budget oversight and other fiscal controls. The continued presence of

management issues is a concern that Mayor, Council and staff are now addressing with these new procedures.