



**Magnolia Heights Neighborhood Association**  
**General Meeting – AGENDA – Tuesday, June 17th, 2025**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in Person at Golden Isles Brewery

- 1) Welcome & Call To Order
- 2) 20 people attending
- 3) Police Report from Officer Reeder: [samantha.reeder@stpete.org](mailto:samantha.reeder@stpete.org)
  - a) Trouble with an individual, argument between friends. Someone was trespassing
  - b) Grand theft, cell phone delivered to front porch and it was stolen. No cameras and no suspects at this time
  - c) Accidental 911 hangup
  - d) Abandoned vehicle
  - e) Vehicle leaking fluid in road
  - f) Animal complaint: two pitbulls not on a leash, not able to make contact with subject
    - i) If he walks his dogs outside without a leash and gets caught he will be fined \$118
    - ii) Officer Reeder says to call non-emergency number 893-7780 (or 911 if it's an emergency) if you see someone walking their dog without a leash. Make sure to tell them which direction the dogs are walking so officers can locate them
  - g) Does St Pete have a noise ordinance for vehicles?
    - i) Usually by the time officers show up, the car is long gone. If you get the plate number and make/model it makes it easier but they have to be caught
  - h) If you leave things in the alley, people will grab it!
- 4) President's Report: Warren Willingham
  - a) New membership software, talk about the new method and take advice
    - i) Reach out to Warren about how to use if you have questions
  - b) Summer Social? When and where would everyone like to meet?
    - i) Wildflower Ice Cream? Golden Isles? Casual Clam?
  - c) Introduce guest speaker
- 5) Guest Speaker: Our state representative Lindsay Cross
  - a) Been in our community for 20 years
  - b) Golden Isles is her favorite neighborhood bar
  - c) Just finished legislative session less than 24 hours ago
  - d) One of 120 representatives (for 23 million people). Her district is number 60
  - e) Must live in the district when you serve (not necessarily while you're running)
  - f) 40 senators, have 3x population representation
  - g) Work up in Tallahassee (policy and budget), then work in the district
  - h) Office on NW corner of 22nd ave N and 4th St (second floor) Clement Dental Center.  
Available during business hours

- i) If you need services at the government level (department of children and families, medicaid, disaster response) reach out to them for help!
- j) About 4 mos out of the year she's up in Tally. Alternates on odd and even years. Started on March 5th, supposed to finish May 3rd.
- k) Serves on budget committee, transportation and economic development, military affairs, information tech and budget, natural resources and disaster, housing, agriculture and tourism, state affairs (large one)
- l) Won her re-election in November
- m) Worked for 20+ years for TBEP, Wildlife corridor, helped to write a lot of policy, worked in consulting on endangered species protection
- n) Focused on environmental and water quality and disaster preparedness
- o) Was allowed to file seven bills. Bill goes through committees before it can go to senate/house floor. Bill may be changed a lot before it goes out for voting.
- p) Had a bill about "no wake" through flooded roads, got incorporated into a transportation bill and passed
- q) Crane regulation safety (after crane issue downtown). Was able to get more language around crane regulation into another transportation bill
- r) Bill expanding opportunities for voting in places impacted by hurricanes, but was stripped out before voting
- s) Disaster debris management sites pre-identified and authorized to be ready for storms debris
- t) Cities now required to have emergency management plans
- u) Affordable housing policy, Live Local Act, "Yes in God's Backyard"
- v) Bills that didn't make it
  - i) FDEP should gather more WWTP data (places that had spills, low elevation, etc.)
  - ii) Budgeting process is based on who sponsors versus where the highest need is
  - iii) Home insurance bill around premiums for roofing, graduated rate in order to get a lower premium
- w) Budget issues
  - i) Legislature is required to pass a balanced budget every year
  - ii) Have to redraw district maps in 2030
  - iii) Supposed to complete session on May 3rd, nowhere close to agreeing on budget
  - iv) Wanted to put more money in reserves, eliminating property taxes would have made it challenging to fund schools, cops, etc.
  - v) We have an increasing population
  - vi) Eliminated business red tax, "trickle down"
  - vii) Now have a second amendment tax holiday for hunting/camping gear 2x a year
  - viii) No back to school sales tax holiday
  - ix) Passed budget of 115 billion last year that included investments in education, healthcare, etc.
  - x) Concerned about school voucher (\$9k voucher). Used to be salary caps but now they're being misused. Charter schools are not held accountable like public schools are.
  - xi) Environmental funding is being focused on conservation easement rather than acquisition
  - xii) Budget is thousands of pages, sometimes people sneak things in where it should have been submitted as legislation

- xiii) 3.4 mil in projects for Pinellas. WQ and drainage in Shore Acres, resilience in Pinellas Park, SPFC, workforce program for solar and agriculture, goodwill industries, USF disabled students
- xiv) Governor can line item veto any funding requests June 30th, will know July 1st
- x) Audience questions:
  - i) Any plans to make hurricane season a little better for us? Not being able to use toilet, shower, etc.
    - (1) St Pete has 5-6 billion plan budgeted for water
    - (2) City has most control over funding but State funding can help things get done faster
    - (3) City proactively shut down WWTPs to prevent electrical failure
  - ii) Can the public be provided with test kits for water safety?
    - (1) In every extension office you can get a water testing kit
    - (2) IFAS has a GIS kit made (ask for link)
    - (3) This last hurricane season showed us how vulnerable we are
    - (4) Our created neighborhoods are very low-lying and get flooding on sunny days
    - (5) City and TBRPC are making a Tampa Bay resiliency plan. May include elevating homes, relocation, buy-outs
    - (6) Sponsored expansion of My Safe Florida program, has previously been limited to wind but wanted to expand to flood protection to provide barriers, vents, etc.
      - (a) Reducing water intrusion doesn't really lower your insurance premium so it's been hard to pass
  - iii) What are flood vents?
  - iv) Who monitors the surfside development?
    - (1) A lot of people who lived in older condos didn't want to catch up with assessments, would bankrupt them
  - v) If a church wants to participate in Yes in Gods Backyard, could they reach out to your staff for information?
    - (1) Yes, if they're in St Pete
  - vi) Can Yes in Gods Backyard help churches pay their fair share of taxes?
    - (1) Yes. Look at Live Local Act, provided some incentives for building affordable housing
  - vii) What does Affordable Housing mean?
    - (1) 80-120% AMI originally
  - viii) Anything being done to limit developers buying housing before people who would live in the house?
    - (1) Challenging to put limitations on that because of the "free market"
    - (2) Property rights in FL are holy
    - (3) Maybe best route is Habitat for Humanity housing work
  - ix) Will the My Safe Florida Home be refunded?
    - (1) Not sure
  - x) How do you recommend to get more involved in your neighborhood?
    - (1) Block parties, support local businesses, adopt a non-profit (kind mouse, JWB, Lealman Asian & Neighborhood Family Center, Keep Pinellas Beautiful)
  - y) Team will be walking in the Pride Parade, contact them if you're interested in joining
- 6) Vice President Report: George Sykes

- a) Recap on Block Party
  - i) Over 400 people showed up
  - ii) Special thanks to Sandy for getting the word out.
  - iii) Follow up meeting. Last Sunday of this month, 5pm at George's house. Quick review and schedule next one. Propose once a year and Halloween weekend
- 7) Treasury Report: Lucas Lima
  - a) Account balance \$2500
  - b) 3 new members, 2 merch sales
  - c) Need to reimburse George, will get back to us.
- 8) Secretary Report: Madison Rice
  - a) Minutes will be posted on the website.
  - b) St Pete Happenings!
    - i) Wildflower Ice Cream Shop is open: <https://www.wildflowericecreamshop.com/>  
Maybe we could organize a neighborhood get together there to show support
    - ii) St Pete Running Co will be opening location soon on 9th  
<https://stpeterunningco.com/>
  - c) Future Meetings:
    - i) August 19th tentatively will have David Hegarty, Neighborhood Transportation Coordinator to talk about transportation improvements on 30th Ave N. If you live on this street and have experiences with people speeding, driving recklessly, or just have questions about how to make our streets safer, **please join!**
    - ii) **Print a map and put pins on a map**
  - d) Porch party at Dan's house??
    - i) Make sure it's a potluck
- 9) Neighborhood Concerns & Suggestions
- 10) Adjournment: **Next meeting will be held IN PERSON location TBD July 15th.**  
[magnoliaheightsneighborhood.com/membership](https://magnoliaheightsneighborhood.com/membership)