

## Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement (TBACE)

### Meeting Place: City of Tampa

### 1200 East Lake Drive, Tampa, Florida 33167

The regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement (TBACE) was hosted by The City of Tampa on December 4, 2018. The following active members were present and signed in:

Doug Allen	City of Temple Terrace	Tina Barber	City of Plant City
Pam Beitz	City of Seminole	Chase Bergeron	City of Largo
Jeff Blakely	City Of Largo	Jay Bloomer	City of Pinellas Park
Tom Borroni	City of Temple Terrace	Shelby Brown	City of Clearwater
Joe Damien	J. Damien Consulting	Ismael David Gonzalez	City of St. Petersburg
Angeline Johnson	City of Tampa	Demetrious Johnson	City of St. Petersburg
Timothy Lovett	City of Plant City	Michael Maginness	City of Bradenton
Carmen Marcano	City of Tampa	Susan Meier	Hillsborough County
Tracy Miller	City of Largo	Kimberli Murphy	City of Bradenton
Volker Reiss	City of Bradenton	Mark Runnals	City of Bradenton
Sam Sandy	City of Tampa	Nicolle Sequeira	City of Tampa
Greg Silliman	City of Oldsmar	Laurie Smith	City of Temple terrace
Tamra Tornai	City of Bradenton	Casey White	City of St. Petersburg

The following individuals signed-in but were not listed on the printed sign-in sheets.

Christa Hull	Hillsborough County	Vicki Pratt-Boone	City of Tampa
Danny Fernandez	City of Tampa	David Gonzalez	City of Tampa
Dennis Sweeney	Hillsborough County	Liana Teague	Hernando County
Mark Caskie	Hernando County	Jean Primus	City of Tampa
Alicia Badger	City of Tampa	Tim Miles	City of Tampa
Fred George	City of Tampa	Alex Alvarez	City of St. Petersburg

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-President Jay Bloomer called the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vice-President Jay Bloomer thanked City of Tampa for hosting the meeting and providing lunch. He also thanked Michael from Mr. Natural's Garden and Bee Rescue of St. Pete, Florida for providing the forthcoming presentation.

#### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:

Michael informed members that their mission is teach to the importance of bees in general. There are approximately 100-registered beekeepers and mentors in this area. Although there are many species of bees, the European honeybee is the species they strive to keep and nurture.

The queen bee never leaves the hive except to mate (or if the hive relocates) and can live as long as 5 to 6 years, and lay up to 150,000 eggs per year. Male bees are only there to procreate.

However, once he mates the queen kills him. Females are the worker bees of the colony. They do different jobs, such as mortuary bees, nurse bees, etc. Some keep the hive clean, others nurture the eggs and young. These workers only live about 21 days. Bees are a major pollinator of all types of food source plants. They are good for the farmers, food growers, and the environment.

There are several methods that may be used (or a combination) to address bee issues.

- Cut out approach involves cutting out the hive completely and removing it. Sometimes this is not possible because of location.
- Trap out process entails the sealing of all entrances to the hive and installing a one-way bee escape. This allows the bees to leave the nest but prevents them from returning.
- Abscond out method entails taking actions to force or entice the queen and colony to leave the hive on their own to an undetermined location or a predetermined one.

His company handles about 150 colonies a year. He doesn't usually wear gear, but warned that bee venom progressively wears on you. You do not become more resistant to it. The more often you are stung the worse the reaction.

He explained that bees are not naturally aggressive; they are defensive by nature. However, Africanized honeybees are more sensitive to identifying nervousness, and they stay agitated for longer periods of time. That is why they are so dangerous. They do not warn and attack in large numbers. At the pace they are spreading they will eventually take over bee populations.

Bees can be found almost anywhere. In soffits, gas tanks, BBQ grills, underside of mobile homes, sheds, trees, inside old tires, etc. If there is a hollow cavity, they can occupy it.

When looking for a new hive location, they send out scouts to find a good space, and then send a cleaning crew, before they move in. Honey is their soul food source. Queens get so large that when they have to relocate, they can only move in short distances. When she gets tired, she will sometimes settle for a less than prime location. Re-queening is done when queens become less productive or dies off.

Bees have been found to dislike almond oil. Sometimes it is used as a deterrent. Certain diseased bee colonies have to be destroyed. Managing bees is best way to keep them healthy.

He suggested members view a good video called "Africanized Bees" (part 1) on line.

He reiterated that bee issues should only be addressed by experienced bee removal specialist. It must be done properly in order to keep them from returning to the hive site, since forger bees may be out during the day (when hive is originally removed) and will return and will attempt to reestablish the hive. Many commercial beekeepers are more interested in honey than in bees. Make sure you use a registered bee removal specialist. He also warned about using insecticides to address a bee problem. That will just make them go deeper into the cavity.

Vice President Bloomer thanked Michael, once again, for his fine presentation.

## **REPORTS:**

Treasurer: Treasurer Doug Allen reported that as of November 23, 2018 there was a balance of \$2,202.09. A motion was made by Mark Caskie, Hernando County, to accept the report, and seconded by Jean Primus, City of Tampa. Approval was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Secretary: President Demetrious Johnson asked the members if they had read the minutes to the prior meeting of October 2, 2018, and asked for a motion to approve. A motion to approve was made by Shelby Brown, City of Clearwater, and seconded by Vicki Pratt-Boone, City of Tampa. Approval was unanimous.

Other Announcements:

President Johnson informed the members that meeting date and location had not been set yet for February 2019, and they were still trying to identify a topic and speaker.

Mark Caskie, Hernando County, reminded members of his involvement with F.A.C.E. and asked TBACE members to consider hosting a hospitality suite, and/or donating a gift basket at the Annual FACE Conference in the summer of 2019. FACE is also seeking members to get involved and run for office on their boards and committees. Currently there is a vacancy in Third Vice-President's office that has resigned.

Vicki Pratt-Boone announced that this would be her last TBACE meeting. And to please keep the City of Tampa involved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Johnson informed the members that meeting date and location had not been set yet for February 2019, and they were still trying to identify a topic and speaker.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Joe Damien

**Immediate Past-Secretary to TBACE\***

December 20, 2018

*\*Note: Joe Damien filled in for Secretary Billie Jo Slatton, which was unable to attend.*