

## **Tarpon River Civic Association**

### General Meeting Minutes

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Recorded and submitted by Marita Flam

Mission: *“To Improve the Quality of Life in the Tarpon River Neighborhood”*

The meeting was held at the Southside Cultural Arts Center (SSCAC) and was called to order 7.02 p.m. by President Allison Foster. The following Board of Directors and Associate Directors were present:

Allison Foster - President

Brucie Cummings - Vice President

Marie McLaughlin – Treasurer

Beverly Grant – Director

Steve Buckingham – Director

Mike Stone – Associate Board Member

Marita Flam – Associate Board Member

### **Fort Lauderdale Police Officer Update**

Officer Ivan Fernandez provided crime statistics starting from September 19<sup>th</sup>;

- 2 Residential burglaries, both caught on Ring camera
- 2 Stolen vehicles
- 6 Vehicular burglaries

Officer Fernandez reminded us that most crimes are opportunistic. Keep on eye on your surroundings, “See something, Say something”. Always lock the car doors and don’t leave anything valuable in sight. Holiday season increases trends like carport burglaries and suitcases stolen from trunks of rental cars.

Recent helicopter activity brought up a question about their usage. Officer Fernandez explained that Fort Lauderdale Police Department requests one or two BSO helicopters for violent crimes, burglaries in progress and stolen cars. The heat cameras assist finding suspects in hiding.

Officer Fernandez will be leaving Tarpon River neighborhood after 4 years and joining Canine unit.

### **River Lofts on 5<sup>th</sup> Presentation**

Stephanie Toothaker introduced Doron Broman, whose development company's office was recently moved to SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, near the River Lofts on 5<sup>th</sup> project. Doron told his vision about activating this area of Tarpon River more by bringing new businesses and residents in while moving halfway houses out. The mural on his building draw criticism.

Cube 3 architects Sal and Tim presented us preliminary drawings of the project that would be a slender, 27-30 story tower with 300 – 350 units. Most units are planned to be 680 sq. ft studios or 1-br units, all with balconies.

The bottom of the building consists of wide, 4-story parking podium. Intended car ratio of 1.1 cars/unit raised discussion of future trends of vehicular usage and traffic in general. Civil engineers will calculate a traffic study. Also, planned 40 visitors parking spots don't seem to be adequate.

Cadence Landscape Architects have visualized a tree canopy and a lot of green outdoor place in their design criteria that also includes metal sculptures.

Communal, flex use area and bike shop & repair have been planned wrapping the front. Ride shares will have their own safe area, not blocking the street. Triple height lobby is planned for active use, including a wine bar and other functions that residents will use. The top of the building will host amenities, like pool, gym, yoga, game room and demo kitchen for private functions.

Allison urged Tarpon River residents to give feedback of the project to the city and commissioner Ben Sorensen. She warned to pay attention and make sure what's promised will happen. Tarpon River Civic Association will continue to share information about the project.

### **City information and Updates**

Planned sidewalk on SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street (train tracks – Publix) is delayed.

### **TRCA Updates**

- Nominating Committee Chair Steve Buckingham informed that all the current Board members and Associate Board members wish to continue in their positions and therefore form the slate of 2020. Elections will be held during the annual Holiday party and meeting on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. He also inquired if anyone else would like to be an Associate board member.
- The suggestions from last General Meeting's TRCA Visioning will be discussed at November's Board Meeting.

### **President's Updates and Closing Remarks**

- Allison urged residents to join Betterment, Little Library (needs leader) and Recycling committees and reminded to pay upcoming dues.
- Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> is national "Make a Difference Day" and TRCA will need more volunteers for Adopt-A-Street clean-up. It will take an hour, meeting at Hardy park 8.30 a.m. Pickers and refreshments will be provided. Bring gloves.
- Holiday party on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> will work this year as cocktail party style, encouraging mingling. The food, including ham and turkey, will be served as small bites. Everyone is encouraged to bring an appetizer style dish or pick-up from the list of additional items, like poinsettias.
- Brucie and Lisa have generated a \$1,900 check from their recycling efforts that earns points from the city. The money will be used in TRCA operating budget. Next, the team will be weeding in Snyder Park in November.
- Whiddon property might be divided. Plan is for the city to buy a section that will be used as a park. The land will be re-appraised. Allison urged everyone to write to Mayor and city commissioners about this.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8.26 p.m.