

Tarpon River Civic Association
General Meeting Minutes
March 28th, 2019
Recorded and Submitted by Toni Ravelo

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 at **7:04pm.** by Vice President Brucie Cummings. The following Board of Directors and Associate Directors were present: Jack Malloy, Steve Buckingham, Marie McLaughlin, Marita Flam, Toni Ravelo, Mike Stone, and David Rose

First order of business:

1. Officer Fernandez Report

- a. Neighborhood Crime Stats since Jan 2019:
 - i. 2 residential burglaries: (1) due to unlocked sliding glass door, (2) due to a criminal cutting the screen of a window and taking a purse with car keys leading to the criminal stealing the residents car, car was later recuperated
 - ii. 1 business – Jerk Machine – window smashed and register stolen
 - iii. 2 vehicle burglaries – (1) due to unlocked vehicle with wallet, ID, cash, ipad and pistol – everything except pistol was stolen (2) a car at park had their window broken that lead to criminal taking purse that was inside the car.
 - iv. 1 Boat burglary – that resulted in a stolen GPS
 - v. 1 Home invasion – at 600 block SW 8th Street – homeowner came home to two black males at gun point this ensued a fight in front of the house and resulted in \$40,000 of jewelry stolen and a small amount of narcotics.
- b. Overall crime is relatively low. Be mindful, if you see something say something. Call non-emergency number 954-764-HELP or call 911 for an emergency.
- c. A request from members to police was made to please monitor back alley ways

2. Treasurers Report

- a. Money Market Account total – \$25,850.07
- b. Checking Account total – \$3383.53 - Two checks outstanding also included in these totals
- c. Total members for 2019 – 83 people joined. In 2018 at end of year we had 197 people.
- d. Brucie requested that members continue to encourage people to please join TRCA!

3. Sidewalk Improvement Report by Catherine Prince & Kristin from City of Fort Lauderdale

- a. Construction will start mid-May
- b. Boards were presented with renderings of proposed sidewalk construction
- c. Concerns about flooding and draining around Reach Reach were mentioned by members and it was noted that current plans that were presented have no plans for drainage
- d. FPL Pole within the River Reach entrance has been taken into consideration. It will either be removed by FPL or be worked around
- e. Steve asked about completion dates: Catherine responded with: 6-8 weeks with no weather delays meaning sidewalks will potentially be completed by 1st of August 2019

4. Code Officer: Gayle Williams City of Fort Lauderdale

a. Code infractions reported see report below:

Tarpon River Code Compliance Statistics March 1 2018 - February 2019

CASES	18-Mar	18-Apr	18-May	18-Jun	18-Jul	18-Aug	18-Sep	18-Oct	18-Nov	18-Dec	19-Jan	19-Feb	Total
Total Cases	5	12	14	21	21	24	6	14	11	7	11	17	163
Cases Still Open	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	5	11	24
Closure Rate	100.0%	91.7%	92.9%	100.0%	90.5%	100.0%	100.0%	92.9%	72.7%	100.0%	54.5%	35.3%	85.3%

VIOLATIONS*	18-Mar	18-Apr	18-May	18-Jun	18-Jul	18-Aug	18-Sep	18-Oct	18-Nov	18-Dec	19-Jan	19-Feb	Total
Total Violations	6	16	21	36	23	31	6	14	12	12	13	28	218
Violations Still Open	0	1	7	0	2	0	0	1	4	0	5	20	40

*There can be multiple violations per case.

TOP 10 VIOLATIONS

Violation Description	Violation Count	% of All Violations
Overgrowth & Trash	45	20.6%
Bulk Trash on Right of Way	39	17.9%
Permits	29	13.3%
Trash Carts Not Pulled Back	11	5.0%
Parking on Unapproved Surface	11	5.0%
Exterior in Disrepair Paint	7	3.2%
Landscape Encroaching on ROW	7	3.2%
Landscape Maintenance	6	2.8%
Vacation Rentals	6	2.8%
Parking lot not Maintained	6	2.8%
Total**	167	76.6%

- b. Gayle mentioned that code officers are not allowed to go into someone's back yard without their permission
- c. Derelict vehicles – Please note that code officers are only permitted to report infractions from the a person's mailbox. If a person has a car with an expired tag, flat tires, etc and the code officer goes to home and can't see the vehicle from the person's mailbox they aren't able to report it.
- d. Commercial vehicles may be parked between 6am – 9pm in our neighborhood. Commercial vehicle is considered a vehicle with 4 or more tires.
- e. Member asked question regarding a home that's hosting a possible sober living, crew house, or halfway house – it's unclear at this time what type of home it is. Member wanted to know what can we do? Gayle mentioned that this house needs to be registered as such a home, code can't make them leave can only take them to special magistrate and then work with police to resolve the problem. At special magistrate they give them fines, and then see about placing a lien on the property. Sober homes need both city and state licenses. The address of the property in question is 812 SW 9th Street and Wilson Quintero from the code enforcement officer has already been to home and started reporting on this potential issue.
- f. Steve asked where we could find a list of sober homes online – Gayle will check with Felicia Blue to see where you can find this online and let us know.
- g. Steve asked about derelict boat reporting- Gayle mentioned that yes this is possible and she will need help if it's in canal, if it's in backyard they can't see it, but if neighbor next door will allow them to go to their backyard to see it they can see it and report on it.
- h. Steve regarding mural at 501 SW 2nd Ave mentioned that mural there may be considered for some people offensive, it is very large and includes a nude woman. Owner of the building hired a painter to have this done and a permit needs to be taken out to do such a mural. A tarp was asked to be placed, it was and then blown away by wind. Gayle will look into it regarding permit.
- i. Gayle left business cards and boat trash info and other helpful information and sidewalks as well as other goodies.

5. **Upcoming Council of Civic Associations meeting in April.** TRCA is registered neighborhood with the council of civic associations. This council we will have an unprecedented meeting with commissioners, mayor and perhaps city staff. We want transparency. Brucie is also treasurer on the council of civic associations and on April 16th at noon at 8th floor conference room in City Hall this meeting with commissioners, mayor and perhaps city staff will take place. Comments from Board:
- Here we are a year out from elections, how does city feel about development running a muck, and overdevelopment in our city?
 - How can neighborhoods learn about projects sooner than later to support those projects or raise concerns or questions at an earlier stage so no one is caught off guard?
 - We are all invited to DRC meetings and meetings pertaining to new development. These meetings are not well publicized.
 - So this meetings will be to hash out ways on getting an early heads up on projects coming our way. In turn, the council wants to then speak to us about how we may be better partners to them as voices of support and communications vehicles to neighbors.
6. **Street Vacation on SW 6th Street –**
- Steve mentioned - It's been our mission to bring to the neighbors the latest information. Also finding ways to improve and protect public realm.
 - Steve explained what a street vacation is – if there is an alley way or a section of street between your house and neighbors house and because it's not a major street there may be an opportunity to vacate the street and if both neighbors are in agreement then that street may be applied to be vacated. Then the two neighbors will pick up the land and meet in the middle, and then they start to pay additional property taxes for this additional property.
 - Steve continued with - There is a specific section on SW 6th Street at the end that deadlines onto Tarpon River where a neighbor owns a house on both sides of the street where they applied to vacate that section of the street. This spot is a public water launch, a viewing park, a park of serenity and used for fishing. This street vacation was spoken about at our last board meeting and it was decided (almost unanimously except for one exception) to decline this request so our neighbors may continue to have access to this area. We are at opposition to this. WE plan to speak out against it. If we fail it will set a bad precedent. There will be public notice to this.
 - Brucie asked members about comments regarding this:
 - Lawyers may be involved – that's where we come in and Brucie asked neighbors to write to commissioners and speak out about it
 - Is it conceivable that water taxi could pick people up from there: Yes this is a possibility, and there have already been signs indicating that this space may not be used and this is a code violation. We want to create more green space not less green space.
 - Request for DRC meetings to be sent out to neighbors via email.
 - Brucie asked that we go out and look at the street ourselves.
 - David mentioned this subject has come up repeatedly over the years. The concept is that public property should not be given away to private owners haphazardly.
7. **Questions from neighbors**
- Has there been a new proposal of Whiddon property on Davie Blvd presented?
 - Scott Whiddon who was present mentioned that:
 - says things are still in motion
 - Taking time because we are sensitive
 - We understand about infrastructure and traffic. Our project will not create more traffic than other proposed projects.
 - Scott ensures that we will know about anything that will be developed.

8. Reminder Upcoming Dates

- a. April 6th - PIP – Steve reminded about tree give away to help increase our tree canopy. Each resident can take up to 2 trees home.
- b. April 27th - Adopt a street
- c. May 23rd – TRCA General Meeting

9. CERTS Update

- a. Marie talked about CERTS team regarding hurricane prep, we are working to make our community united during a hurricane. CERTS has a lot of training for injuries, First AID, CPR, saving adults and children from water accidents. CERTS will be at PIP with their trucks and showing how teams are scheduled. Marie is assigned to fire station. They are the ones that give the water and ice out during hurricane and its' free.

10. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm