

2020.10.8 TRCA BOD meeting

Zoom - virtual meeting

Purpose: *Create a forum where issues impacting Tarpon River neighborhood in particular and the City of Fort Lauderdale in general may be discussed; where ways to improve the quality of life in the Neighborhood and the City may be agreed upon; and where appropriate action may be taken to implement what has been agreed upon.*

Mission: *To improve the quality of life in the Tarpon River Neighborhood and the City of Fort Lauderdale*

Tarpon River Civic Association Board of Directors wants to share our commitment to equitable and respectful treatment of all individuals everywhere and specifically within the Tarpon River Civic Association Boundaries. We understand and acknowledge the problem of systemic racism and discriminatory practices across our country toward many different groups and particularly towards Black Americans. Additionally, we want to reaffirm our commitment to creating a safe and inclusive community in Tarpon River. We recognize we have much work to do and we are committed to cultivate space for ongoing conversations to ensure our community continues to thrive as a place where all feel welcome.

Welcome

Called the virtual meeting via zoom to order at 7:03 pm. The following Board of Directors were present: Allison Foster - President Brucie Cummings - VP Marie McLaughlin – Treasurer Janet Scrapper – Director Jay Schechtman - Director Mike Stone – Director Marita Flam – Director Dave Rose- Director

President Report:

President provided updates on Code issues - new sidewalk on SW 8th/9th street - neighbors have reported and had trouble getting into LauderServ the various cars that are parking and blocking the new sidewalk connection; has been reported to Code enforcement and will provide updates; on 10/13/2020 the nominating committee will meet to discuss board for the upcoming year; updated that the Broward MPO agreement with the City of Fort Lauderdale has been dissolved due to a conflict of interest due to the surtax, President has addressed Commissioner and other City staff asking for clarity has there has been no communication on how to communication regarding mobility projects; Downtown Civic Association will join October mayor candidates at General Meeting. Secretary will no longer be serving in her role due to personal circumstances; President is behind on previous minutes and will get them to board for approval soon.

Treasurer Report:

\$5712.91 in checking account; \$25888.90 in money market account; checking total does not include check that went to Mike Stone for reimbursement for recent mailing for new members. Currently 114 members.

Old Business:

Street lights: Street light replacements have been reviewed by two board members - the prior lights which were reviewed are no longer available. The new option is amber in color and can be viewed by board members if interested off Cortez Street where North Birch/Cortez/Las Olas all come together. It was indicated that the amber color is less glare prone. City has asked that TRCA pay for the lights. Board expressed interest in this option of new lights and interested in determining what financial support if any we can receive either from the city or from utilizing remaining mobility plan funds. Brucie and/or Mike will provide costs once they have received the information. Allison will reach out to City Staff to determine ability to use mobility funding from city for the lights. Further discussion on payment and final decision at upcoming meetings.

Guests:

Whiddon Family - Scott and Gene Whiddon presented their newest and final contributions to the property on the corner of Davie Blvd/SW 9th Ave. Described a brief history of the property and what their ideas have been since 2013. In 2013= 325 rental units; 2014=280 rental units; 2017=200 condo/townhouses; 2019 – 172 condo/townhouses; 2020 – 122 townhouses. Reiterated they have worked with the city to meet their requests - the city does not want a wall along Davie Blvd. They have hired a traffic engineer – 122 units will result in 664 daily trips and 54 peak hour trips; compared to the 85 single family homes – 895 daily trips and 97 peak hour trips. Their previous plan had 936 trips and

78 peak hour trips. Will create an additional right turn lane SW 9th avenue at Davie – to expedite 95 traffic; will also create an exit/entrance into area from Davie. Compared their property in size and development to River Reach and Rio Nuevo. They will deed one acre of the property to the city - the area west on the river - ideally creating a walk/bike destination. May include a footpath or there is a possibility to create a water taxi stop. They indicated the remaining trees will help with the dense oak canopy at the end of the property (west) so that it remains in perpetuity. Indicated townhomes will be in groupings of 4 or 8. Board members asked how it will be possible to know that this site plan will remain after zoning changes; how much guest parking; will they be willing to do a reciprocal use area for the park area; expressed concern and desire to see exactly what the walking path will look like for community members to enter in and get to the park area; expressed desire for the area to be friendly and align with the neighborhood. At the end of the Whiddon presentation Board indicated will follow up with additional questions; will provide those in writing to the Whiddons and would like further responses and would like Whiddons to communicate to TRCA community, too.

River Lofts Development team attended virtual meeting - Stephanie Toothaker, Doron Broman, architect Sal, and Stephanie's assistant Estafani. They continue to be in the DRC proces - they have not formally responded to the comments from the DRC, wanted to share the changes they had made from the first presentation. Added trees to the landscape view, added a covered promenade for the commercial space; heavy landscape – down to 29 floors from 31 floors. Have moved all loading inside the garage, included a plaza with outdoor seating. Not sure what will be in the commercial area but it is approximately 4700 square feet of retail space. 352 units in total 1.1 parking spots per person - most apartments average about 600 square feet. TRCA board expressed concern regarding height, number of units, impact on traffic, and the desire for their to be retail space that is usable by the public, expressed desire for there to be bike racks on property (River Lofts indicated a total of 15 bike racks on property - outside). TRCA also asked for consideration regarding Marina Lofts project to be shared and the impact both would have on the area. River Lofts team will provide an overview of the incoming buildings in addition to River Lofts, and that they will be responding to city staff in the next few weeks, will also get the information to the TRCA board. Doron Bromon also added that the building he owns that currently has a mural on it will be painted with a new mural in the coming months.

New Business/Discussion

Development projects: Both Whiddon Property and River Lofts were discussed by TRCA board. Whiddon property concerns: sidewalk connection inside community and access for Tarpon River neighbors to get to park; concern regarding zoning change and desire for there to be commitment to the small numbers of units; need understanding regarding guest parking, concern regarding River Reach and traffic, should the west end property area with the park not have a zoning change, how the neighbors can access the park. The various questions will be shared with the Whiddons to gain additional information. Whiddons should present to neighborhood once TRCA gets additional information based on submitted questions.

River Lofts - need to determine what other properties are owned in the area; overall impact on traffic, too many units. Continue discussion at upcoming meetings and one information is received from River Lofts team.

Additional neighborhood signs - not able to be discussed due to timing of meeting - will be discussed via email.

Upcoming meetings

October 20 – Commission meeting – TOPIC: Downtown Master Plan Amendments

October 22 – General Meeting

November 12 – BOD meeting

Adjournment at 9:04pm.

