

**Tarpon River Civic Association**  
Board Meeting minutes  
September 10th, 2020  
Recorded and submitted by Marita Flam

**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”

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 and Check in;**

The virtual meeting was held on Zoom and was called to order 7.03 P.M. by President Allison Foster.

The following Board of Directors were present:

Allison Foster - President

Bruce Cummings - Vice President

Marie McLaughlin - Treasurer

Janet Scaper - Director

Jay Schechtman - Director

Mike Stone - Director

Marita Flam - Director

**Officer's Report;**

*President;*

-Planning & Zoning meeting will be on Wednesday, 9/16 at 6 pm. Ella Parker would like TRCA participation regarding Character areas and transition zones. Participants would need to sign up to speak. Rio Vista has crafted a letter in the subject and TRCA supports them.

-DDA will join our October meeting. Submit questions to Allison in advance.

-Property surrounding Publix is neglected, specifically on the west, where tattered blue tarps now expose the lot. This continued concern has been addressed with the Code enforcement, Ben Sorensen and Robert Lochrie, who drove by and witnessed it. Apparently the builders faced financial problems and left the lot as is. Board was asked to continue to update Allison with additional issues.

-Mike Stone will send Membership mailing by the end of October. USPS routes don't align perfectly with TR borders, but 5 routes = 3796 addresses will be used at a USPS special mailing pricing for September of \$652.91. We will utilize September's special price along with printing mailer printing estimated at \$275 for a cost of \$927.91. Renewal reminder will be added to the mailer. Motion was made by Marie that "we move forward with membership mailing for membership drive in September. Price should not exceed \$1,000". Motion was seconded by Janet, all were in favor. Current members will also receive an email. In case someone out of TRCA borders is trying to join, Marie will return their check and refer joining their own association.

-Minutes from prior general meeting/BOD will be coming out via email this weekend, please respond.

-Nominating committee for next year's Board will include Allison, Marie, Dave and Mike.

#### *Treasurer;*

-TRCA has currently 97 members.

- Money Market has \$25,888.69 and checking account \$5,965.75. Paid expenses were \$627.98.

#### **Old Business;**

-There does not seem to be acute Covid-19 needs for the neighborhood. Marie pointed out that older neighbors who are not computer literate should be sought out in general and checked that their needs will be met.

-We will continue to use Zoom for the meetings with the monthly price of \$16.

-Neighborhood membership mailing will be sent in October.

-Thank you to Brucie & Cynthia (and others) who have added census signs throughout the TRCA community; Marita for work with census as enumerator.

-Thank you Jay for your work with the round-a-bout on SW 7th St. and SW 7th Ave. Overgrown and damaged agave plants were removed and were substituted with smaller plants.

#### **New Business;**

-Mayor candidates Dean Trantalis and Ken Cooper will be attending the October meeting. At the current time, TRCA is not endorsing either candidate.

-Reviewing the goals for 2020 showed that we have met most of them. Exception is membership goal of 160 due to not being able to hold events in person.

-Street lighting has not many options. They should not be too bright, perhaps soft yellow. Bruce will send an electronic copy of the brochure.

#### **Open Forum;**

-For Building and Zoning purposes, Rio Vista has a code for minimum apartment size, 400 SF. Other areas, like in Miami, accept 275 SF micro units. Janet made a motion that "TRCA will support residential 400 SF minimum unit size in downtown Fort Lauderdale". Seconded by Mike, all were in favor. Since 400 SF is a standard, it's easier to keep as is.

-Volunteering opportunities with the city have been non-existent due to Covid.

-Monuments are required to have Florida friendly landscaping. Bills need to be submitted mentioning so. Brucie will provide new billing for the Recycling department.

-Allison brought up that she is not a current resident, but was pointed out that she still is a Tarpon River home owner.

-Janet has been in touch with Benjamin Restrepo from Sustainable Development regarding how all big intersections are failing with traffic. River Lofts by Maduro Group on SW 5th St. and SW 3rd Ave. would make traffic conditions unacceptable. The project has not been approved yet and should reduce the number of units. Ben Sorensen has contacted the builder months ago regarding that, but has not received a reply.

-Jay suggested turning the right-of-way area at 416 SW 9th St. into a pocket park honoring a long time member and resident Dave Rose. Jay will gather all the information needed for a formal request and email Enrique. For designation purposes, the area might need a zoning change. We will also need to be careful how to propose the suggestion to the neighboring property owners. Parks bond could be used for building a walking path and adding a bench.

**Reminders;**

-CENSUS deadline is 9/30! Complete yours and encourage others to participate; two board members are participating as enumerators.

**Upcoming meetings;**

September 24, General Meeting

October 8, BOD

October 22, General Meeting

**Adjournment;**

Meeting was adjourned at 8.50 P.M.