

## **2021.03.11. TRCA BOD meeting**

### **Zoom - virtual meeting**

Recorded and submitted by Marita Flam

**Purpose:** *Create a forum where issues impacting the 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 and Attendance**

The meeting was held online and called to order at 7.05 p.m. by President Jay Shechtman. The following Board Members were present:

Jay Shechtman, President

Mike Stone, VP

Marita Flam, Secretary

Marie McLaughlin, Treasurer

Brian Engel, Director

Janet Scaper, Associate Board member

Felice Fontana, Associate Board member

### **President Report**

February BOD Meeting minutes were approved by Marie, seconded by Brian.

February General Meeting minutes were approved by Brian, seconded by Marie.

- Stranahan HS visit is confirmed for Saturday 3/13, 9 a.m.
- FEC ROW by and north of Hardy park has homeless encampments. Question was raised if the City could react proactively before the situation escalates.

### **Treasurer Report**

As of today, the Checking account has a balance of \$8,123.23.

The Money Market account has a balance of \$25,889.85.

We have 181 paid members.

### **Old Business**

- Tarpon River Water Quality

Residents feel strongly that not enough has been done for the water quality. Dr. Nancy Gassman acknowledged our testimonials and the City has hired an environmental consultant to take core samples of the sediment. Forming our local committee was discussed. Marie will get in touch with the most knowledgeable residents who attended the last General Meeting. According to Brucie, EPA has suggested that we also test the water quality. We will research the costs and decide afterwards.

- SW 6th Avenue Right Of Way

This City owned area, south of SW 10th Street, stays neglected. It could be used various ways, like road, park or greenway. One female neighbor has raised concern of losing her privacy. Discussion will be held on March 25th General Meeting and community opinions will be sought. The board will base its position on the matter after hearing what residents express.

- Whiddon Property

Negotiations are on a holding pattern. Land use attorney is looking at feasibility.

- Raintree RiverLofts

The builder has responded only to some of the DRC comments. Jay has talked to Jim Hetzel (Urban Planning & Design) about flex unit use in downtown area projects. All allocated 5 000 units have been used. A new batch of 5 000 will be added. Developer has been offered \$12 million, he declined. Possible use for naming rights (like stadium) was discussed. It was determined that there's no value on it.

- River Lofts on 5th

New comments were submitted to the City in December. According to Ella Parker, the height of the building was reduced to 28 stories. Updates for this project and Raintree project development arrive slowly.

### **New Business/Discussion**

- RAC SMU Parking Concerns

Growing Regional Activity Center area will have several new businesses that will require parking. Perhaps valet system could be established. Existing Tarpon River Brewery has been talking with the city of how to improve their vicinity.

- Bahia Mar

Lauderdale Tomorrow group found out about behind the scenes dealings about extending a lease and building condos at Bahia Mar area. Our board is against private use of public land. Allison will craft a letter with Mike's input.

- Laudertrail Update

Biking trail has been planned to follow FEC's tracks. The City has engaged the Path Foundation that has transformed several railroad corridors, including in Miami, into linear green spaces.

- General Discussion

Water taxi will again provide a free water trolley on New River. The trolley will run in between Esplanade park and water taxi stop #4, near Las Olas boulevard.

### **Reminders**

- General Meeting March 25
- BOD Meeting April 8

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8.54 p.m.

