



**Tarpon River Civic Association
General Meeting 03.25, 2021**

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 and the City of Fort Lauderdale*

Welcome & Board introductions

The virtual meeting was held on Zoom and called to order at 7.00 p.m. by President Jay Schectman

Jay Shechtman – President

Dave Rose – Director

Mike Stone – VP

Brian Engel - Director

Marie McLaughlin – Treasurer

Brucie Cummings - Director

Marita Flam – Secretary

Associate Board Members

Allison Foster

Cynthia Hatfield

Janet Scrapper

Felice Fontana

Police report

- Officer Aryo Rezaie gave past month's crime stats. There were a total of 12 incidents. 7 small thefts, mostly unattended cell phones, increased by Spring break. 3 vehicular ones, all because of car unlocked doors. 2 residential ones, 1 attempt and 1 successful one.
- Chief Frank Sousa joined the discussion of red Mercedes that speeds and cuts through our neighborhood daily. The driver, among others, was cited this morning. This being a non-criminal situation, not much besides citing can be done to avoid it turning into harassment. Chief Sousa will try different angles, like getting in touch with the driver's employer. The driving time frames have been narrowed and officers will be back for traffic enforcement in the morning. Mike Stone will be a liaison, having contact information for our officers.
- It was brought to our attention how male, middle aged driver of white BMW with out of state tags has approached young girls. Chief Sousa will look into it. The report has gone to Special Victims Unit.

Treasurer report

- 181 paid and voting members until the end of the year. Membership dues are \$15/person and \$25/couple
- Checking account has a balance of \$8,123.22
- Money market has a balance of \$25,889.95

TRCA Updates/New Business

- Stranahan High School athletic director Thomas Harrison hosted a tour on March 13 at the school premises. They have great magnet programs where neighborhood students can be automatically enrolled without applying. We agree that schools bear a lot of say on property values and TRCA will see how we can assist Stranahan HS.
- Traffic improvements include reflecting striping on the corner of SW 11 St & SW 11 Ct. The area might also get narrowed.
- 20 new swale trees were delivered and planted on March 24. They are paid by impact fees from the city, which also plants them for free. Let us know if you'd like some.
- Neighborhood has 3 major developments;
River lofts on 5th is coming closer on their plans. Raintree River Lofts (old Marina Lofts) has comments going back and forth with the city.
With Widdon project, we are waiting to hear back from their attorney.
- Tarpon river water testing
- The city will provide us a map of sewer gravity including force mains and let us know about general stormwater/drainage conditions. They have also promised hiring environmental consultants, testing the water and taking core samples. Brucie has been trying to find companies (like Waterkeepers and EPA) to give us estimates for testing. It was suggested by a member for us to pay for one sample, to prove to the city that more testing is needed. We feel that they are stalling their efforts but hoping to receive some results soon.

Public Hearing

- 12 000 sf city owned property on SW 6th St, connecting SW 10th and 11th Streets has been neglected for a long time. The purpose of this hearing is to listen to the opinions of area residents and vote. TRCA Board of Directors will support the voting income and send supporting letter to the City accordingly. The area is zoned for a road, no approval needed for that purpose. It could also be used as a greenway, like Lewis Landing, or vacated to adjacent property owners. Members were allotted 3 minutes/each to talk.
Joe Kreutle: Have it accessible for all. Grass is worth more than tar.
Brian Engel: Has the city tried to make it a park? (Yes, but got contested by 1)
Gaylord Wood: Make it a pocket park.
Diana Petruk: Make it into a park.
Abbey Hand: Public land should not be given to an individual. Make a park.
Lisa Horn: Park. Neighbors tried to take it.
Gloria Reese: Families would enjoy a park. Fits our Mission Statement to do so.
Ladimira Meacham: Make it into a park with benches.
Chris Wren: Fight for a park.
Abbie Kanner: Park. Absolutely no land giveaway.
Kimberly Oliver and Jose Raul Dechoudis: Park, fabulous idea.
Patricia and Steve Weist: Park, we walk through it daily.
Dan Doyle: Park. Let dogs on leashes through. Build rubber paths, hold well.
Dave Rose: Supporting Joe. Keep it for public use.
Marie McLaughlin: If made into a park, provide dog poop bags on stake.

Gaylord Wood: Taken to the City before? (Yes, 2005).

Voting was done online at 8.06 p.m. by 24 devices. Some devices had multiple family members, but will show only as one vote.

23 votes (96%) voted for park/greenway use.

1 vote (4%) for vacating the area.

ACTION NEEDED

- Next General Meeting April 22th
- Renew your membership! And ask neighbors to do so, too! Please visit tarponriver.org to renew. Email TRCAPresident@gmail.com with any questions.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 8.55 p.m.