



**Tarpon River Civic Association
General Meeting – February 25, 2021**

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 meeting was held online and called to order at 7.07 p.m. by Vice President Mike Stone. The following Board of Directors and Associate Directors were present;

Mike Stone – VP	Brian Engel - Director
Marie McLaughlin – Treasurer	Dave Rose - Director
Marita Flam – Secretary	
Brucie Cummings – Director	

Associate Board Members

Allison Foster	Felice Fontana
Janet Scraper	

Police report:

Officer Aryo Rezaie reported a low number of incidents. All 3 vehicle (vessel) break-ins were due unlocked doors. 1 residence burglary was possible due to an unlocked window. Out of 4 thefts, 2 happened inside Publix. A question was asked if the crime statistics are going up or down. Officer Rezaie replied that they are constantly low.

Treasurer report:

- We have currently 175 paid members.
- Checking account has a balance of \$8,038.36
- The Money Market account has a balance of \$25,889.76.

Presentation:

Tarpon River Water Quality

Commissioner Ben Sorensen, City Manager Chris Lagerbloom and Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Director of Public Works -Sustainability, joined the meeting addressing concerns about the water quality.

Tarpon River area residents feel strongly that the worsening issue of the water quality of Tarpon River has been neglected. Last year's 56" sewer break in Rio Vista spewed 100 million gallons of sewer water to our river. That pipe was replaced with a HDPE plastic pipe with welded seams to avoid eruptions and saltwater corrosion in the future. Environmental consulting company was hired, but only to inspect and focus on an area in between SE 9th Ave - SE 3rd Ave, not reaching the Tarpon River neighborhood. They got cameras down, tested the sediment and took core samples 2 ft deep.

Residents questioned if the recent unhealthy state of the river is related to the sewer breaks? The river is low and cannot self clean. There are several pinch points (bridges) that hinder the flow. It used to have debris, but now all the wildlife has vanished, in and around water. Several longtime residents located directly on the river noted the severe deterioration, specifically west of Andrews Ave, and how there has been no recent testing. Last dredging was done in 1996. Perhaps stormwater coming in could be restricted? Advisory Beard has previously suggested nets.

What is done now? According to Dr. Gassman, the city has 169 miles of waterways. Canal cleaning contractor (with GPS equipped boats) cleans them all once a month. Broward county has an Environmental Monitoring Division that does water quality monitoring and posts results online. Closest test site to us for this quarterly surface sampling is #15 on New River, at Andrews Ave. Nonprofit Miami Water Keepers also does weekly tests in Broward county.

How to mitigate and go forward? Commissioner Ben Sorensen explained that Tarpon River falls under city jurisdiction. Surface can be cleaned, but water itself still will have pesticides and organic matter, e.g. from leaf blowers. Commissioner has asked for dredging, but there has been no consensus on how to fund it. Tarpon River residents should be heard and start advocating. Mayor and other commissioners should be asked to support us. City Manager Chris Lagerbloom said that he will support the cleaning of Tarpon River for next year's budget.

TRCA Updates/New Business:

- SW 6th Street and SW 6th Avenue beautification

Area has been completed by the City. Images were shown.

- SW 8th Ave and SW 10th Street

Request for county feasibility study for a 4-way stop has been sent.

- SW 8th Ave and SW 11th Street

Restriping request and feasibility study for intersection modifications have been sent.

- Stranahan High School Tour

Athletic Director Thomas Harrison will lead an open tour to Tarpon River board members and residents on Saturday, March 13th, starting at 9 a.m. His goal is to create a true community school by forming interactive relationships and giving back to the surrounding community.

- March 25th - SW 6th Avenue Right of Way Public Hearing

This currently abandoned area is owned by the City, who welcomes opinions of how to make the area more enjoyable for all the residents. Hearing details will be posted on Nextdoor.

- Whiddon - Next Steps

Final proposal has been sent to Whiddons. It underlines the importance of the details brought by the TR community, like a one acre public park, sidewalk and right turning lane from SW 9th Avenue to David Boulevard. The board is waiting for their response.

ACTION NEEDED!

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 9.02 p.m.