



**Tarpon River Civic Association
General Meeting May 27, 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 7.04 p.m. by Vice President Mike Stone. Following board members were present

Mike Stone - VP

Dave Rose – Director

Marita Flam - Secretary

Brian Engel - Director

Marie McLaughlin – Treasurer

Brucie Cummings - Director

Associate Board Members

Allison Foster

Janet Scraper

Felice Fontana

Police report

Officer Rodriguez presented following, low crime statistics; one vehicular theft and three vehicular burglaries. He reminded us to always lock car doors and not to leave anything on sight. Often thieves just walk through parking lots and find unlocked cars. Do not give them an opportunity. If you see something, call 911.

Treasurer report

- 193 voting members until the end of the year.
- Checking account has a balance of \$7,690.45
- Money market has a balance of \$25,890.40
- Expenditures include Constant Contact and final bill + \$100 gift card for Laura Cash for her two decades of gardening work with TRCA entry monuments.

TRCA Updates/New Business

1. TRCA will join Rio Vista and Downtown Civic Associations at the monthly summer series called Sips, Sounds and Splats, held at South Side School Cultural center on Sunday, May 30th, starting at 2 p.m.

2. Sidewalk meeting on May 25th showed several loopholes in the outdated code e.g. “the neighborhood was built without sidewalks”. Instead of contacting every developer, we propose changes to the code and will get in touch with Ben Sorensen about steps to do so.
3. Stranahan High School cafeteria was built for Elementary School. On May 18th Ben Sorensen went to the School Board meeting with the issue. He will take the lead making sure the cafeteria will get renovated.
4. Tarpon River water testing supposedly started three days ago, on May 24th, E-Sciences and City staff providing the sampling. However, none of the three members whose residence is a confirmed sampling site haven’t seen any activity. General data about the water quality comes from the City and Miami Waterkeepers reports. We will follow up with Nancy Gassman from Public Works. Questions were raised about finding another City contact and also talking to the State Environmental agency.
5. Neighborhood currently has four major Developments. River Lofts on 5th has done traffic mitigation and apparently received DRC approval. It is currently a narrow 29 story building with 352 units. There was a suggestion to inform our members about the project on our Newsletter asking for their help. Across the road, Raintree River Lofts is a proposed 30 floor building with 352 units. They are still in the process of responding to DRC comments. Whiddon development plans are on hold due a major decision maker passing away. Plans might change including single family homes instead. We are still hopeful for the City to buy a parcel for park purposes. During previous negotiations their asking price has been very high. 525 S. Andrew’s Avenue is located directly north of Publix. This is a resubmission of previously approved plans. The development group has scaled down the project to a 46 story building with 399 units. They came to our virtual Board meeting wanting to hear our concerns and opinions. Our ongoing concerns are density and traffic.
6. We were informed that Shelby Rodriguez is Tarpon River’s urban planner. We will reach out to Shelby with our concerns.
7. Traffic mitigation effort for more water trolleys and small electric bus doing downtown circuit would take more cars off the roadways. We should keep it a priority and keep pressure on. We are trying to invite someone from the City for our next meeting.
8. Would you like to sponsor our Newsletter? It is sent to about 300 people. Please contact Allison.
9. Are you concerned about flood planning? Contact Christopher Sparacino from Department of Sustainable Development via Lauderserv.Fortlauderdale.gov/311/request/add.
10. Suggestion was made to add Meeting Agenda to Meeting notices.

ACTION NEEDED!

- Next General Meeting is August 26th
- 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 8.30 p.m.