



**Tarpon River Civic Association
General Meeting 9/23, 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 7.05 p.m. by President Jay Schectman. Following Board members were present

Jay Shechtman – President

Brian Engel– Director

Mike Stone – VP

Marie McLaughlin – Treasurer

Marita Flam – Secretary

Police report

Officer Rezaie presented following crime statistics for the past 30 days; 2 vehicle burglaries, 1 marina burglary and 1 package theft. With both vehicle burglaries there was valuables left in plain sight. Question was asked if loud activity after midnight in Lewis Landing park had resulted in an increase of calls, but suspicious activity is reported to different category.

Complaint was made about speeding on SW 7th Street with a request for traffic calming. Speeding seems to happen during morning and evening commute, but more specific times should be provided for traffic enforcement.

Treasurer report

- 195 voting members until the end of the year.
- Checking account has a balance of \$6,893.58
- Money market has a balance of \$25,891.27

TRCA Updates/New Business

Go Solar

Glen Hadwen from the City of Fort Lauderdale Ghadwen@fortlauderdale.gov presented the national Go Solar co-op project. With reaching 30 members, site visits and lower co-op rates will be given. More

information is provided at www.SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Broward. The program can be contacted through the website or emailing FLteam@SolarUnitedNeighbors.org.

Transportation and Mobility (TAM)

Karen Warfel kwarfel@fortlauderdale.gov, Shelby Rodriguez srodriguez@fortlauderdale.gov and Mackendy Phillippe from TAM attended the meeting, showing slides of recent transportation requests and answered questions. The slides included;

1. Broward Commuter Rail study that integrates passenger and freight service along the FEC, including New River crossing. 4 options for river crossing are studied, including a tunnel. With bridge options, TRCA opposes more street closures that would affect our day-to-day life. We are welcome to speak at the forthcoming city meetings about our concerns.
2. Henry E. Kinney tunnel improvements and Pedestrian plaza on top of the tunnel. Tunnel has only one lane each way at the moment.
3. SE 3rd Ave multimodal connections. City has requested the county for improved pedestrian and bicycle accommodations including barriers to separate them from cars.
4. Andrews Ave and SE 3rd Ave One-Way pairs study. Not yet started.
5. Tarpon River Neighborhood Mobility Master Plan. Neighborhood should identify how to spend available funds of \$19,000, to know exactly what we want and have projects "shovel ready". Prior Top 5 wishlist included sidewalk connections, mini roundabout, painting crosswalks, pedestrian lighting on major roads, pocket park with improved pedestrian and bike access and formalized parking. Disjointed sidewalk portions on SW 7th St are a major safety concern. TAM is looking at the continuous sidewalk on the south side of the road from Lewis Landing park to Hardy park. In November there will be more information about the timing of the project. Other neighborhoods and Planning & Zoning could use TRCA sidewalk map as an example. Current citywide sidewalk map is antiquated and lets new developments use loopholes to escape building them. This ordinance is going to the city commission and we are welcome to voice our opinions there.
6. SW 8th Ave & SW 11 Ct/SW 11th St is a wide intersection with excess pavement.
7. SW 8th Ave & SW 10th St is a wide intersection with fast turning cars.
8. SW 7th Ave between SW 9th St & SW 7th St would need road narrowing. It is 30 ft wide in areas.

In all, requests include intersection improvements, 3 roadway narrowings, 2 all-way stop controls, 4 pavement marking restricting and 6 traffic studies for speed humps. Neighbors want the streets safer, flooding to be considered and crosswalks painted.

SW 9th Street Planting

Dead end area just west of SW 4th Avenue was embellished with native plants.

Britto Statue

Homeowner from Coconut Drive donated a 12 x 12 feet modern art piece from Brazilian artist Romero Britto. Chosen new location will be in Hardy park, most likely by SW 7th Street for great visibility.

Historic Castle Designation

At a meeting on Monday, October 4th, Historic Preservation Board will hear Broward Trust for Historic Preservation's application and decide if the New River Castle on 625 SW 5th Place should receive designation as a historically significant building. Meeting is held at the City hall at 5 pm. Audience is welcome to voice their opinions.

Coconut Drive Right of Way (ROW) request

All three properties at the south end cul-de-sac of Coconut Drive (900, 905 and 910) are owned by the same family. Lindsey Way, representing the rest of the family, has requested it to be vacated into ROW. The subject will be discussed in more detail later.

Raintree River Lofts

A considerable amount of discussion has been had about the possibility and feasibility to relocate the historic Raintree to allow construction of two tall residential buildings off SW 4th Avenue, by New River. Original site plan with a different name (Marina Lofts) was approved eight years ago, but since the project name, the buildings themselves and new location for the tree have been changed. The original concern about moving the tree is the same. Will it thrive after moving?

In Addition

If health concerns allow, TRCA would like to bring back Party in the Park and Holiday party. Hardy park might be a more suitable location for them.

ACTION NEEDED!

Renew your membership! And ask neighbors to do so, too! Please visit tarponriver.org to renew!
Email TRCAPresident@gmail.com with any!

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9.08 p.m.