



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association

The January 8, 2014 meeting of the MRT Board of Directors was called to order by President Domingo Cid at 4:06pm. The meeting was held in the cafeteria on the 8th floor at City Hall with 8 members present. It was determined that a quorum existed.

Note: Due to the meeting time being rescheduled on the day and time previously planned, the meeting was held without our Secretary, Dick Eaton due to work responsibilities.

Members present: Domingo Cid – President
 Laura Croscenco – Past President
 T. J. Fiori – Vice President
 Donna Fiori – Secretary
 Jan Palmer
 Steve Stahl
 Charles Scheller
 Franco Gordina

Tony Fiori made a motion that the evening's agenda be approved and Laura Croscenco seconded. All voted in the affirmative.

The President asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5th meeting. A motion was made by Donna Fiori and seconded by Laura Croscenco

OFFICERS REPORTS:

The following reports were presented by Officers of the Board:

TREASURER'S REPORT

Donna Fiori presented the current treasurer's report that showed the following:

Beginning balance	11/30/13	\$3629.02
<u>Income:</u>		
New membership		25.00
50/50 drawing		23.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$48.00
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Raffle Tickets		19.02
FP&L		9.99
Newsletter Printed		143.99
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$173.00
Final Balance	12/31/13	\$3,504.02

President Domingo Cid stated that the website is still under construction and there is an urgent need of short personal BIOs and photos of board members to him for the completion of the website. The levels of sponsorship was announced:

- Platinum – Cost / \$500 yr., Logo placed on the top banner of website. Allowed four changes per year.
- Gold – Cost / \$300 yr., Logo placed on the side banner of website. Allowed two changes per year.
- Silver – Cost / \$150 yr., Logo placed on the bottom banner of website. Annual updates.

Domingo stated that ads will include a map to the sponsor's location. Steve mentioned that the PayPal account would be transferred to the Secretary Donna Fiori after final placement, content and test of the function of PayPal to our bank account. He asked Donna to devise an 8 digit password including at least 1 number and 1 letter for her to change my name and password to hers on the MRTNA PayPal account for her exclusive access to funds. At Domingo's request, Steve is going to see if the account can be owned by the MRTNA instead of a person so there would not be a conflict such as the fiasco of an old MRTNA e-mail account. Steve also volunteered to be the person to update/maintain the website. Domingo accepted, but indicated that he wanted 2 persons to be trained, so as not to have all the eggs in one basket.

Laura asked that all of the board members e-mail the mayor and all commissioners concerning them blaming our residents for not policing our neighborhood as we should and should form neighborhood watches, post yellow warning signs to improve the situation without and help from the police department also that we are not working with "him", assuming Tim, to get the block watches and improving our neighborhood as we should. *(as a reference:, see recording of the commission meeting 1/ 7/14 1:30 pm, beginning at Dean's presentation at 59 minutes into the recording)*

In a discussion as to how we address the recent inappropriate attacks by the President of the 13th Street Alliance, Domingo mentioned that he has spoken to Hal Barnes, Mayor Seiler and Dean Trantalis concerning the problems with the President of the 13th St. Alliance, and everyone in town knows how he is boisterous and spreads untruths. Steve disagreed with Domingo stating that apparently some believe him such as the influence he has on Commissioner Bruce Roberts as he stated in his remarks concerning us not cooperating with "him" at the 1:30 meeting on 1/7/2014. Steve made a revised motion of his e-mail to all concerning the 13th St. Alliance to remove the word: demand, and replace it with request and correct grammatical errors: I would like to make a motion that the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association send a registered letter to the president of the 13th St. Alliance to give notice that the MRTNA will not renew their membership to their business organization. Also the MRTNA as the officially recognized City of Fort Lauderdale neighborhood association requests that any changes made that are made within the boundaries of our neighborhood be given in writing to the board of MRTNA for approval of any changes and request notice of dates and times of presentations to be given by officials or others for our participation in any issue involving changes within the boundaries of MRTNA, and our approval of the change prior to implementation.

This action is due to the 13th St. Alliance president's refusal to work with our BOD, the 13th Street Alliance suggesting in newspaper articles, and in public meetings that his business organization is an umbrella over our neighborhood which he has no authority to speak for or jurisdiction over and his slandering of our Association Board members in public meetings (Dean Trantalis pre-agenda meeting 1/6/2014, and on his personal blog - only a couple of examples.)

Also, a registered letter sent to our Commissioner Dean Trantalis and City Manager Lee Feldman, informing them of the action with a copy of the letter to Tim Smith. Laura seconded the motion and it was passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Membership Drive:

The subject of the membership drive a motion was brought up by Laura concerning the costs, printing and stuffing envelopes. It was agreed upon that we would ask our Secretary, Dick Eaton to design the membership flyer to mail out, Steve would get 1200 copies made and Laura, Donna and TJ will stuff the envelopes that Domingo has and mail them out. Domingo seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Code Enforcement:

Domingo reported that he and TJ took a drive-around with our Code Enforcement Agent, Andre Cross and discussed problem areas and viewed boarded up homes:

529 NE 14TH Pl. / 835 NE 14 CT. / 1325 NE 7TH Ave. / 608 NE 15TH St. and stated that the properties continue to be trashed and the city when they inspect and clean up, there is no lien placed on the property, or any attempt for the city to seize or demolish the buildings. Domingo has a meeting, yet to be scheduled, w / Director Greg Brewton and Deputy Director Jenni Morejon. Laura also brought up some blighted areas near her property and asked that they be included in the meeting with the Director and Deputy Director.

Commissioner Trantalis Meeting:

Domingo reported that he has a meeting set up with Dean Trantalis on Monday, 1/13/2014 to discuss the disposition of the 13th St. Alliance, the possible acquisition of a key and code for us to use the Annie Beck House for BOD meetings and the unkempt condition, boarded windows, rotting wood, etc. of the property and ask if the Parks Department would take over and maintain the building in the park, and a current update on the status of the property south of the park. Laura asked if she or Steve attend the meeting with Dean and Domingo said he didn't think it would be a good idea. There was a continued discussion concerning the approved motion concerning our ending our membership in the 13th St. Alliance. Domingo asked if we would hold off on sending the letter until he has a meeting with Dean. He stated that Dean was considering disbanding the 13th St. Alliance and if he does on Monday at the meeting with Domingo we will drop our motion, if not, the letters will go out immediately. There was a unanimous consensus that we all agree to wait until after the meeting for the letters to be sent out. Domingo is going to ask Dean if it would be possible for the city to have a petition circulated to show support for legislation to be enacted by the state legislature to strengthen laws to protect citizens from juvenile crimes and repeat offenders.

Dixie Hwy 100th Anniversary Celebration:

Due to the holidays, we will begin the planning of the celebration on Dixie Highway at the next BOD February meeting.

Juveniles invading our neighborhood via the high school property

Due to concerned citizen posting on Next Door, Bob Young, requesting to know what is being done about the fence and patrolling of the school property, Steve made a motion that the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association send a registered letter to the Fort Lauderdale School Board Director, Robert W. Runcie and Chief of Staff, Jeffrey Moquin informing them of the problem of juveniles using the low boundary fences on the east and south sides of their property in our neighborhood to raid / burglarize / terrorize our homes. Ask that the School Board appropriate funds necessary to raise the height of the fences like the ones on the west and north sides of the property. Also, increase the security on their property with a security officer from their security department in their employ to utilize the numerous golf carts at the school to monitor their property for trespassers, students and/or others.

Also, a registered letter sent to our Commissioner Dean Trantalis and City Manager Lee Feldman to solicit their help in speaking with the director and chief of staff of the school board about this issue and a copy of the letter sent to the school board. Laura seconded the motion and it passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fort Lauderdale High School: Domingo is going to set up a meeting with the principal at the high school to see if we can work out a plan to use the school as a location for our BOD meetings and ask if the high school would like to participate in the parade celebration of the 100th anniversary of Dixie Highway.

Roads, fence, and caboose along the FEC tracks: Domingo attended a meeting with Hal Barnes concerning roads to be repaved and Tim Smith and Shannon Harmeling were no-shows at the meeting. Domingo is going to attach a file of the site map to the minutes for comments from the neighbors. Domingo stated that Lake Ridge is in control of the fence removal and we have to wait until they get it scheduled with the city. Domingo added that the caboose across from Home Depot is scheduled to be removed. Laura brought up that we need to stress that the city plant trees when the fence is removed to appear like the other side of the FEC property in Lake Ridge. Steve stated that the road is in terrible shape along the fence and hoped it was included on the map. (7th St. from 13th St. to Sunrise)

Police Department: Steve sent an email to Dean Trantalis concerning the lack of an actual plan and the complete absence of any police patrols. Dean in turn forwarded the e-mail to Police Chief Frank Adderley who called me to discuss the problems in the neighborhood. I also informed him that two months ago, I volunteered as a citizen on patrol and after two weeks of unreturned calls from a Sargent I contacted Major Gregory with the same request and have yet to receive a call back as promised. After going over my concerns, and expressing to him our appreciation for Tom appearing at our meetings, I asked him if he was willing to have a meeting with members of our board concerning our issues. He replied that not only he would be available, but would have Chief Williams, Major Gregory and Captain Wheeler attend. By phone to his secretary, I gave available dates we had for the meeting and asked that if they were not available to furnish us with the dates that they would be available. As of this meeting, our dates have passed and no word of the available dates from them. I sent an e-mail to Dean and Scott concerning the meeting and expect to hear from them.

Upcoming Meetings:

Domingo announced the following upcoming meetings:

General Meeting – January 12th MRT Park – 4:00pm

BOD Meeting – February 6th – Location TBD – 5:30pm

Tony Fiori made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Donna seconded the motion and all voted in the affirmative.

The President adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Stahl,
Asst. Government Liaison