



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association

The February 6, 2014 meeting of the MRT Board of Directors was called to order by President Domingo Cid at 5:34pm. The meeting was held in the cafeteria on the 8th floor at City Hall with 10 members present and 2 guests. It was determined that a quorum existed.

Members present: Domingo Cid – President
 Laura Croscenco – Past President
 T. J. Fiori – Vice President
 Dick Eaton - Secretary
 Donna Fiori – Treasurer
 Joann Block
 Franco Godina
 Jan Palmer
 Steve Stahl
 Charles Scheller

Tony Fiori made a motion that the evening's agenda be altered to allow our guests to speak first and Laura Croscenco seconded. All voted in the affirmative.

The President introduced our guest speaker, Lawrence Jackson Rosen, the new president of the South Middle River Civic Association. Mr. Rosen in turn introduced Lou Castillo the new vice president who was attending with him. Mr. Rosen and Mr. Castillo shared experiences with their association and different approaches they have used to increase active participation by residents. They have had great success with using door hangers that have information about the association and their meeting dates on one side and a Smart Water advertisement on the other. They worked with Smart Water who agreed to cover the cost of \$400 for 2,000 door hangers as a means of advertising their product to the neighborhood. Mr. Rosen said their initial results are promising. They went from about 30 residents at their meetings to 60 or more. He said they plan to continue to distribute the door hangers throughout the neighborhood as a sustained effort to build participation. Mr. Castillo distributed a few samples of the door hangers they are using. The President thanked them for sharing this with our association. Dick suggested to them that we should find additional ways to work together as neighboring associations such as possibly holding joint events. All agreed this would be beneficial as we share a lot of the same concerns.

The President asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5th meeting. Dick requested clarification on a couple issues. He requested that the minutes reflect that the board approved the business advertisement rates for the webpage. Dick's motion was seconded by Domingo and all voted in the affirmative. He also expressed concern about a reference to a post by a resident on NextDoor. Although he had no problem with the reference to the issue raised, he did not feel it was appropriate to put the person's name in the minutes. A motion was made by Laura to remove the resident's name from the minutes and seconded by Donna. All voted in the affirmative.

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	12/30/13	\$3504.02
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Income:

New memberships	250.00
50/50 drawing	14.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$264.00

Expenses:

Office supplies	10.60
Membership printing 1,200 flyers	114.48
Postage for membership mailing	450.80
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$575.88

Final Balance	12/31/13	\$3,192.14
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Donna also reported that the association had received a \$500 donation from Camelot Shores Condominium Associates which will be reported in next month's financial report. A request was made that the Secretary send a letter of appreciation for the support.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President reported that a meeting has been set for February 14th at 10:30am with Director Greg Brewton and Deputy Director Jennie Morejon from the City of Fort Lauderdale Department of Sustainable Development. They will be meeting to discuss Code Enforcement issues in our neighborhood. Issues to be discussed will be recurring problem properties and a resolution to multiple citations being served.

Domingo announced he has his regularly scheduled meeting with Commissioner Trantalis on Monday, February 10th. Multiple issues will be discussed to include juvenile crime, the Anne Beck House, the 13th Street project and the status of the south parcel park addition land. Laura raised an issue of concern in regards to the contaminated south parcel land adjacent to the park. In her research she found that the major contamination is coming from a small area to the rear of the lot and adjoining the Middle River Terrace Park. She is concerned that some areas of our park may also be contaminated, creating a safety issue for children and residential users. She spoke to the Mayor about her concerns and he advised that the park land had previously been tested with no contamination found. She requested a copy of the report and to date has not received anything. She also has requested information from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in regards to this issue. She requested that Domingo raise this issue with the Commissioner at his meeting. Domingo requested copies of all information Laura has obtained on his issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

Membership Drive:

Donna reported that 920 membership flyers had been mailed recently. We have already started to get some returns.

Dick asked if there were any updates on the proposal to get approval from the high school to be used as an alternate meeting place. Domingo stated that he is working with City staff, from the office of Hal Barnes, who have been in contact with the school. To date he has not heard back from them and will need to do a follow up.

Dick asked if there was anything new to report on the Dixie Highway Anniversary celebration. Laura stated the committee has not yet met. She has requested Domingo, in his upcoming meeting with Commissioner Trantalis, to request his assistance in getting participation from the Fort Lauderdale High School. Laura would like the participation of their marching band and cheer squad for our parade down Dixie.

Laura announced the upcoming City of Fort Lauderdale Neighborhoods meeting to be held on February 11th from 6 – 8:30pm. She felt it was important that we have some representation at the event. She and Joann will attend the event, representing the MRTNA.

Dick asked if there were any further plans by the association to schedule a day to pick up air potatoes to raise funds for our association. Currently no further dates have been set however Joann advised that the project is set to end on February 14th. Joann also wanted to correct some previous information on the points allotted for this project. Previously it had been stated that the association would receive 1 point per 30 lbs. collected and the correct amount is ½ point per 30 lbs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve reported that the overgrown landscape on the bridge on NE 4th Ave near the high school had recently been trimmed by FDOT. He also said they power washed the bridge as well.

Upcoming Meetings:

Domingo announced the following upcoming meetings:

General Meeting – February 9th - MRT Park – 4:00pm

BOD Meeting – March 6th – City Hall Cafeteria, 8th floor – 5:30pm

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

The President adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Eaton

Dick Eaton
Secretary MRTNA