



**Middle River Terrace
Neighborhood Association**

P.O. Box 4561
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 1, 2014

The May 1, 2014 meeting of the MRT Board of Directors was called to order by President Domingo Cid at 5:35pm. The meeting was held at City Hall with 8 members present. It was determined that a quorum existed.

Present: Domingo Cid – President
T. J. Fiori – Vice President
Dick Eaton – Secretary
Laura Croscenco – Past President
Charles Scheller
Joann Block
Franco Godina
Jan Palmer

Tony made a motion to approve the evening's agenda and Laura seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative.

Tony made a motion to approve of the minutes of April 10th and Charles seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

The following reports were presented by Officers of the Board:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Beginning balance	03/31/14	\$4,732.52
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Income:

New memberships	175.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,907.52

Expenses:

Kid's Day donation	41.93
Go Daddy (web page)	130.00
<u>Corporation Annual Report</u>	<u>61.25</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 243.34

Final Balance	4/30/14	\$4,664.18
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OFFICERS REPORTS: (Cont.)

GOVERNMENT LIAISON:

Laura proudly announced that Middle River Terrace made the top #5 list of recipients to receive grant funding from the FDOT. It is expected that we will receive approximately 4.4 million dollars which will cover the balance of funding needed for traffic calming devices for the Dixie Highway improvement project.

Laura also announced an upcoming Broward County MPO summit. She and Steve will attend as representatives of our association.

Laura reported there is not much new to report in regards to the EPA investigation on the contaminated parcel of land next to our park. She said the investigation is ongoing and the EPA is working with Broward County on the issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

MRTNA WEBPAGE:

Domingo reported that the web page was up and running and that Steve and Dick have been busy putting information on the site. The web page is a work in progress and we have additional ideas of ways we would like to improve it. Steve and Dick will continue to work with Jeff in this regard. There was discussion on the posting of agendas and minutes on the web page. I was decided that the agendas will be posted prior to the meetings and then will be removed when the minutes are posted. There was discussion on launching the web page and how that would be performed from the administrative side of the page. In discussion on the best time to officially launch it to the neighborhood it was decided it would be a great idea to do it in conjunction with the distribution of the neighborhood door hangers which promote it. Domingo suggested we launch it via a mass email on Wednesday, May 14th. Laura made a motion to that effect and Jan seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative. The address of the web page is middleriverterrace.org.

SMARTWATER:

Laura announced that the funds for the purchase of Smartwater for our neighborhood were on the City Commission agenda for approval on 5/16/14. She expressed the appreciation of the association to the City manager. He had committed earlier to seek the funding if it was determined that the program was effective in reducing crime in South Middle River.

There was discussion on the joint effort between our association and Smartwater in creating the door hangers that will be distributed in our neighborhood. Smartwater has agreed to cover the cost to print the door-hangers and the association will form teams to distribute them. The board went over the current draft and Dick suggested removing the information about Nextdoor from the hanger. He felt that is was too much information on the space provided and created confusion. He suggested that we stick to promoting our primary goal which was to promote attendance at our meetings and to introduce the new

web page. Laura made a motion to adopt the proposed changes and Tony seconded. All voted in the affirmative. Two colors, black and blue will be used on the wording on the hanger. The plan is to form teams to canvas the neighborhood the weekend of May 17th and 18th.

DIXIE HIGHWAY ANNIVERSARY:

The chairperson of the event, Laura reported that the tentative dates for the event will be either October 18th or the 25th. She reported that the High School has advised her they will be unable to commit their marching band until the end of August. They have summer competition events and will not have a firm schedule until that time. Laura expressed that she felt we should continue to pursue some type of financial assistance from the City to cover the event. She asked that the President bring the issue up at his monthly meeting with the Commissioner. Domingo announced he will be unable to attend the meeting due to a previous commitment. Laura said that she and Steve will attend in his place to discuss this with Commissioner Trantalis.

GYR (GREEN YOUR ROUTINE):

Joann brought up the issue of the funds that the association needs to spend this year on some type of green project. There had been previous discussion about donating it to the high school for a butterfly garden that was being considered. Since that time it was found that so such project was being planned. It was suggested that we might consider donating the funds to the high school to plant bougainvillea along a section of the fence that borders our neighborhood. It was felt that this would be an additional barrier to prevent those who would breach the fence to commit crimes in our neighborhood. Joann made a motion that we pursue that idea with the school and Charlie seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative. Laura agreed to contact the school about the proposal.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Domingo was presented with a letter of resignation on behalf of our treasurer Donna Fiori who was unable to attend as she is home recuperating from some health issues. She stated that she intends to continue to participate as a member but felt it was time to resign from the board for personal reasons. In her letter she offered to continue with the monthly financial reports until the new treasurer can be installed. Laura made a motion that the board send her a letter thanking her for her services and asking her to reconsider her decision. Charlie seconded the motion and it carried without dissent.

Domingo informed the board that he has been in discussion with some of the adjoining neighborhood association about working more closely together. He stated that he attended the recent social gathering held by Lakeridge and they have expressed an interest in conducting some type of joint social event as has South Middle River. It was felt some type of informal round table meeting might be good so that we can share some of our joint concerns and ideas. The meeting would be informal and social in nature.

Domingo also announced that he had been approached by a representative of Vivint Home Security systems who would like to work with the association. He would like to make a presentation on Vivint's home security systems at one of our meetings and in turn

would contribute \$100 to the association for each system he places in our neighborhood. The board appreciated the offer but there was some hesitation about allowing our meeting to be used as a sales event. It was suggested that we might ask Vivint to become a corporate sponsor of our association which would allow them to advertise on our web page. The board will take this under advisement pending Domingo's further discussion with Vivint.

Domingo also announced that he had been contacted by Jan Idleman from an area law firm who wanted to publish an article on our web page about estate planning. She felt it was a subject of interest due to the large gay community in our area although she said it would apply to all couples. Once again there was concern if this was an attempt at free advertising for the law firm through our web page. The feeling was that it would provide good information to residents however the board would prefer some type of reciprocation from the law firm such as a corporate membership or an ad on the web page. Domingo will pursue this idea with them further.

Domingo announced that Robert LaMendola from the FL Dept of Health, who had requested to speak with our association, has a scheduling conflict next month. He will be scheduled for our June general meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Joann shared that she recently represented our neighborhood at a little free library painting event at Warfield Park. She shared information on a unique program in the city involving miniature lending libraries being placed in city parks and neighborhoods. The libraries are small decorative boxes that allow residents to share books. Residents would be able to leave books that they had already read and at the same time borrow books that others had left. It would be placed by the city and use would be by free will of residents. The board was interested in the idea as a possibility for the Middle River Terrace Park. Joann offered to pursue getting one placed in our park and the board was in unanimous agreement.

Upcoming Meetings:

Domingo announced the following upcoming meetings:

General Meeting – May 4th - MRT Park – 4:00pm

BOD Meeting – June 5th – City Hall Cafeteria – 5:30pm

Charlie made a motion of adjournment and Tony seconded. All voted in the affirmative and the President adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Eaton

Dick Eaton
Secretary MRTNA

