



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, February 9, 2014

### **Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association**

The February 9, 2014 MRTNA general meeting was called to order by President Domingo Cid at 4:00 pm at the Middle River Terrace park pavilion.

A motion was made by Tony Fiori and seconded by Jan Palmer to approve the meeting agenda; all voted in the affirmative.

The President asked for a motion to approve of the minutes of the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Tony Fiori and seconded by Laura Croscenco; all voted in the affirmative.

Officer Vilches from the FLPD was present to report on crime issues in our neighborhood and the success of the action plan currently in place to address them. He reported that overall part #1 crimes decreased from 33 in December to 22 in January. Of particular concern was home burglaries and he reported that there had been a significant drop from 19 in December to only 8 in January. He encouraged resident to continue to be vigilant in reporting any suspicious activity.

Domingo introduced our second guest, Brenda Baily from Smartwater CSI. Our board had contacted Smartwater in regards to sponsoring door hangers that would be distributed to the properties in our neighborhood. On one side would be an advertisement touting the benefits of Smartwater in combating crime. On the other side would be information on our meetings and encouraging participation in our association. Brenda announced that Smartwater has agreed to cover the cost to print 2,000 door hangers and our association has committed to placing them on doors of properties in MRT. Brenda also announced that Smartwater now offers a smaller lawn type sign that can be purchased for display at properties that are covered by the Smartwater technology. She said the price for these signs is \$12 but must be purchased in bulk. Brenda touted the success of Smartwater in our area, stating that SMRCA has had an overall reduction in crime of 20-21%. She stated that the City of Oakland Park had an even larger reduction in crime but she did not have the exact figures. She encouraged our association to continue to increase the number of homes in MRT with Smartwater, in order to see any significant decrease in crime here. Although she could not give details, she said she is in discussions to look at ways to increase participation in our neighborhood.

Domingo introduced a guest speaker, Benjamin Sessions who serves on the Crime Committee for the South Middle River Civic Association. He shared some of the programs that his association has in place to combat crime. They have a Crime Action Committee and Block Captains who coordinate to monitor and report criminal activity. He said the committee also sends letters of concern to the owners of problem properties with excessive criminal activity. Since our neighborhoods adjoin one another there was discussion that it might be beneficial for us to work together since the criminal element tends to move back and forth between our communities.

**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
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$264.00</b>

**Expenses:**

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

Final Balance	1/31/13	\$3,192.14
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Donna reported that we are starting to get some returns from our recent membership mailing. She said to date we have approximately 40 paid members with additional coming in each day. She also announced that we recently received a generous \$500 donation from Camelot Shores Condominium Associates Inc. This donation will qualify them as platinum sponsors and make them eligible for a top banner on our new website with the option to change it up to four times during the year. The secretary will send them a letter of appreciation from the association.

**OLD BUSINESS:****Code Enforcement:**

Domingo reported that he and Tony Fiori have a meeting with Director Greg Brewton and Deputy Director Jenni Morejon to discuss code issues in our neighborhood. They will focus on the following abandoned properties: 529 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Pl, 835 NE 14 Ct, 1325 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave and 608 NE 15<sup>th</sup> Pl. They will be discussing additional options for addressing these blight properties as well as better ways to handle properties who continue to receive multiple citations.

**Commissioner Trantalis Meeting:**

Domingo reported that he will be having another of his regularly scheduled meetings with Commissioner Trantalis this week. Some of the issues they will be discussing are the outcome of his meeting with juvenile justice officials, efforts to seek greater cooperation with the school, the

status of the historic Annie Beck house in our park, our associations concerns in regards to the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Alliance and potential options in regards to the south parcel next to the park.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### GYR Update

Joann Block reported on the recent efforts of some members to raise funds for the association by participating in the removal of invasive potatoes from several areas of the City. She reported that our association currently holds the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> place among neighborhood associations. To date, our members have picked up and submitted 238 pounds of potatoes. She reported on other opportunities including the upcoming St Patrick's Day event, a March tree give away, the wildlife habitat program and inviting people to join NextDoor.

Laura raised the issue of the contamination of the South Parcel next to the park. She has researched the current contamination and found that the majority of it is located in a small area near the back of the lot, adjoining the park. She also discovered that the contamination level found there is 20 times higher than what is allowed by the EPA. She contacted the Tallahassee Office of Environmental Protection and they advised that as a rule, an area is deemed contaminated ¼ mile from the source point. Based on this information she feels that there may be areas of our park that are also contaminated. She is concerned about holding events such as the Dixie Highway festivities in the park and exposing children to possible contamination. She has requested that Domingo discuss this issue with Commissioner Trantalis and find out if the City has tested the park property.

Tony announced that he had received an email response from Howard Foreman from the Broward County Prosecutors office in regards to being notified when juvenile cases are being heard. Mr. Foreman has agreed to notify our association of the court date if we wish to attend. There was some discussion of a group from the association attending and wearing identifying attire. This would demonstrate our unity in requesting that juvenile criminals, particularly repeat offenders, be handed harsher consequences.

Domingo announced the following upcoming meetings:

- March 6<sup>th</sup>, MRTNA BOD Meeting at 5:30 pm. / City Hall Cafeteria
- March 9<sup>th</sup>, MRTNA General Meeting at 4.00 pm. / MRT Park

Laura made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tony seconded. All voted in the affirmative and the President adjourned the meeting at 5:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Eaton  
Secretary