



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, April 13, 2014

**Middle River Terrace
Neighborhood Association**

The April 13, 2014 MRTNA general meeting was called to order by President Domingo Cid at 3:59 pm at the Middle River Terrace park pavilion.

The President asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Tony and seconded by Donna to approve both the meeting agenda and the minutes of the March 9th meeting; all voted in the affirmative.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

The following reports were presented by Officers of the Board:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Donna presented the following report:

<u>Beginning balance</u>	<u>02/28/14</u>	<u>\$4,778.08</u>
--------------------------	-----------------	-------------------

Income:

<u>New memberships</u>	<u>135.00</u>
<u>St Pat's parade t-shirts</u>	<u>25.00</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$160.00</u>

Expenses:

<u>Image 360 (MRTNA banner)</u>	<u>155.66</u>
<u>Supplies for St. Pat's parade</u>	<u>39.84</u>
<u>FPL</u>	<u>10.06</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$ 205.56</u>

<u>Final Balance</u>	<u>3/31/14</u>	<u>\$4,732.52</u>
----------------------	----------------	-------------------

It was also reported that our membership drive continues. Last month's report showed approximately 40 paid members and as of this month it currently stands at 70. Donna reported that new memberships continue to come in.

DIXIE HIGHWAY ANNIVERSARY:

Laura reported that Hal Barnes had spoken with the City Manager about the possibility of city funds to assist with the event and was told there were none available. There are other ways that the city will be able to assist however. Hal will enlist other city departments to participate where applicable. He will also look into the possibility of working with us to possibly have food trucks

at the park for the event however funding for the event will fall primarily on the association. Dick suggested we begin looking for corporate support from area businesses in much the way we did for the Middle River Terrace Festival that he chaired several years ago. He suggested that a list be put together of all of the businesses in our neighborhood to include adjoining areas. A letter and information packet should then be prepared that can be delivered to the businesses, requesting their financial support. Dick will check his files on the previous event to see what we may have that we can use in this effort. The event is scheduled to be held in October and Laura announced that the school continues to be very interested in joining with us as this is also an anniversary event for the high school as well.

CRIME REPORT:

Officer Vilchies arrived at the meeting and the President allowed him to present his crime report at this point. He reported that overall crime in MRT has decreased. Of particular concern were home burglaries and he reported that we continue to see a significant drop. He reported we only had 1 in February and none in March. He encouraged residents to continue to be vigilant in reporting any suspicious activity. Dick asked about the rise of car burglaries of which he was a recent victim. Officer Vilchies confirmed there are reports that criminals have figured a way to remotely unlock cars which is currently under investigation. He reminded residents however to always keep your cars locked and keep all valuables out of sight.

Laura suggested that the President post a thank you on the NextDoor website to include the police, the school, the Commissioner and all other city officials for their efforts in working with the association to address the crime in our neighborhood. All of us working together have been able to find solutions that have brought about a significant drop in the crime rate in MRT.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

The President reported that his monthly meeting with Commissioner Trantalis had been canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

Domingo reported that the webpage is up and running but has not been released to the membership yet. Steve and Dick will be attending a training session with Jeff on Friday, April 18th at 10am at Dick's house to work out any final issues. Steve and Dick will maintain the webpage for the association.

Domingo reported that he and Tony met with Frank Gaines, the head of security for the Fort Lauderdale High School to discuss some of the recent concerns of area residents. He reported that the fence that was being breached to allow persons to enter the adjoining neighborhood had been repaired. Tony stated that Mr. Gaines advised that the school had implemented security patrols along the area perimeter and that there will be two patrols each hour, at the start and end of each class shift. Mr. Gaines said that they have asked the FLPD school detail officer to enter the adjoining neighborhood when students leave the school grounds to smoke to monitor their activity.

Domingo gave an update on the activities of the CCCRA in regards to a program to fund façade upgrades to area businesses. He reported that the current plan is for the City to loan the funds to the CCCRA. They will in turn offer it to area businesses with the loan split to be 80% City and 20% business for those interested. Laura raised concerns about tax monies generated from the areas covered by the CCCRA being used to subsidize and benefit businesses as opposed to other areas of the neighborhoods. Several other members present agreed with that concern. There was also discussion about the cost to expand the CCCRA. Steve reported that the estimates are in the range of \$50 - \$60,000. Domingo also reported that he met the new Code manager Sharon who attended the meeting.

Dick asked about the current status of the motion made last meeting to request someone attend our meeting to educate the members on the work of the CCCRA. Domingo said he is looking into who might be available and will probably request Al Battle from the city who oversees that program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Joann advised that the association is required to spend 20% of our GYR funds on a conservation effort each year. Based on what we made last year, that would amount to approximately \$180. Those funds can be spent on any such project in the city however the board feels the funds should be spent on a project in our neighborhood. At the last board meeting Steve had mentioned that the High School has plans to put in a butterfly garden. Steve is going to look into the details of that program as a possible project we could donate those funds to.

Dick reminded that we need to begin thinking about new officers for next year. Per our by-laws, any slate or individual candidates must be presented at the June meeting for a vote to be held in July.

.

Domingo announced the following upcoming meetings which have been changed due to Mother's Day on the 11th:

- May 1st, MRTNA BOD Meeting at 5:30 pm. / City Hall Cafeteria
- May 4th, MRTNA General Meeting at 4.00 pm. / MRT Park

Franco made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tony seconded. All voted in the affirmative and the President adjourned the meeting at 5:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Eaton
Secretary