



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, June 8, 2014

**Middle River Terrace
Neighborhood Association**

The June 8, 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 and minutes. A motion was made by Tony and seconded by Laura to approve the meeting agenda, all voted in the affirmative. A motion was made by Charlie and seconded by Tony to approve the minutes of the May 4th meeting; all voted in the affirmative.

Ms Joseph from Fort Lauderdale High School was introduced. She was present to accept the \$200 donation made by the association to the school. Each year, the City of Fort Lauderdale awards Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association cash for the services of the Green Your Routine MRTNA volunteers. Of that money, 20% must be spent on sustainability projects. The donation is for the planting of bougainvillea along the fence line on the east side of the school. The bougainvillea will make that area more beautiful and it will also serve as a crime deterrent. There have been indications that young people, who have been burglarizing the neighborhood have been coming over that fence. Joann and Steve presented the check along with a framed certificate from the MRTNA.

GUEST SPEAKER: Domingo introduced our guest speaker, Ray Combs of Vivint Home Security Systems. Ray gave a brief presentation on the features and benefits of the home security systems available through his company. He also announced that for each system he places in Middle River Terrace he will donate \$100 to the association. He also offered that he would waive the \$99 activation fee for residents of our neighborhood. Ray passed out brochures to all of those present.

Ray's company Vivint Home Security also worked with the association to prepare door hangers for distribution in our neighborhood. The hangers will have information about Vivint Home Security systems on one side and information about our association and the upcoming free SmartWater distribution. Vivint Home Security covered the cost of printing the hangers and the association will handle the distribution.

Officer Tom Gestal was present at the meeting and Domingo introduced him to give us a current assessment of crime in our neighborhood. Officer Gestal stated that overall our neighborhood crime statistics are low for this time of year. He reported we had 6 burglaries in April and 4 in May. The FLPD continues to work their action plan in our neighborhood.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

The following reports were presented by Officers of the Board:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Donna presented the following report:

Beginning balance 04/30/14 \$4,664.18

Income :

<u>New membership</u>	<u>25.00</u>
<u>PayPal Donation</u>	<u>9.41</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$ 34.41</u>

Expenses:

<u>FPL</u>	<u>10.53</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$10.53</u>

Final Balance 3/31/14 \$4,688.06

Donna reported that new memberships continue to trickle in.

GOVERNMENT LIAISON: Dixie Hwy Anniversary Celebration

Laura Croscenco, reported the she has been in touch with Ms. Ruwe from Fort Lauderdale High School. They are working on scheduling a meeting to coordinate our Dixie Hwy anniversary celebration with the high school's 100th anniversary celebration. Ms. Ruwe stated that they are going through a lot of staff changes right now on top of the current renovations. She would like to postpone the meeting until after school starts in August. Due to concerns that pushing it back would not allow sufficient time to plan the event it was announced that we may have to move it into November.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Domingo reported that the web page is up and running and has been well received. He discussed some of the future changes that we are currently working on to improve the page. There are currently a couple of business's that are considering sponsorship on our web page. Laura made a motion that due to the recent contributions of SmartWater and Vivint Home Security systems to our association, that we give them a "silver level" sponsorship on our web page. Domingo seconded the motion and all voted in the affirmative. Steve will get with Jeff, to make arrangement to get their logos on the web page.

Domingo gave an update on the activities of the CCRB in regards to a program to fund facade improvements for business's along 13th St. Laura raised the question of whether we could request some of those funds be used to replace the entrance monument located in the median on 13th St. Domingo said he did not think that was a possibility as those funds were designated only for the facade improvement project.

Domingo announced that our association will be joining with the Lake Ridge Civic Association to have a dedication celebration at the newly landscaped area where the fence was removed along the tracks. The tentative date of July 13th is subject to change, based on the cities completion of the landscape work. The event is scheduled to run from 2 pm – 3pm and Domingo announced that is the date of our July general meeting which would follow at 4 pm. Michael Albetta, the president of Lake Ridge offered that they will be donating food and carts for the event. Middle River Terrace will supply coolers, ice, drinks and dinnerware for snacks. Laura suggested we put our MRTNA banner up at the event to which everyone agreed.

Domingo gave an update on the free SmartWater distribution event to be held on June 29th and the FLPD substation on 13th Street from 5 pm – 8 pm. He said that members who will be assisting should be present at 3 pm for the set up. Debbie suggested we have recycling containers at the event since we will be supplying sodas and water. All agreed that would be a good idea and will bring some of the old blue city recycling containers to the event.

The door hangers which were paid for by SmartWater will be distributed by volunteers from the association the weekend prior to the event. They were printed prior to having the information about the free distribution. There was discussion of way to get that information on the hanger. Laura made a motion that we purchase labels that we could put the information on and stick to the door hangers. Domingo seconded the motion and all voted in the affirmative. Steve offered to get the labels and prepare them.

Domingo announced that the banners announcing the free distribution have been placed throughout our neighborhood in four key locations. SmartWater provided the banners and also installed them for us. Many of the members reported they had seen the banners and thought they would be very effective in getting out the message to residents.

NEW BUSINESS:

Domingo announced that our election of officers to the Board of Directors will be held at the next general meeting on July 13th. Per our by-laws, all candidates must be presented at today's meeting after which time the nominations will be closed.

Dick announced that he had received an email request from Fernanda Day who could not attend the meeting as she was going to be out of the country. She submitted the following nominations:

President: Domingo Cid

Vice President: Tony Fiori

Secretary: Steve Stahl

Treasurer: Donna Fiori

Dick also announced that he had received a request from Colleen Lockwood to be considered for a position on the board. She is a new member and wanted to get involved with the association.

Dick nominated her for the position of Marketing/Media Coordinator.

Domingo announced the nominations for the following board positions as well:

Government Liaison, Laura Croscenco; Crime/ FLPD Liaison and Neighborhood Safety, Ray Combs; Neighborhood Appearance, Jan Palmer.

Steve had raised the issue that he thought we needed more than one board member with the volume of issues under Government Liaison and Crime. Dick stated that per our by-laws we only have the current positions available however volunteers can assist any board member in their

areas of concern. If we wish to create additional board members, that is something that would need to be addressed during our upcoming review of the by-laws. Domingo announced that Dick agreed to continue to head up the by-laws review committee and that all members of last years committee have agreed to serve as well.

Receiving no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. Dick suggested that since there was a full slate and none of the positions are contested that we vote in the affirmative at the July meeting rather than by secret ballot. All agreed however it was decided to have a limited number of ballots available for anyone who might like to vote per secret ballot as per our by-laws.

Domingo gave an update on the pending redevelopment project slated for the property at 17th Ct and Dixie Hwy. He announced that renderings of the “Key West” style project have been posted on the web page. He has been in touch with the developers who have informed him that their initial submission to the City was warmly received and only required a couple minor changes. Colleen raised the question of whether this would be section 8 property. Domingo assured her that the board had raised that question previously with the developers and were assured that it is not. Laura reminded everyone that the developers had previously stated they would not be adverse to including a new MRT entrance sign where the current one exists on the lot. A new entrance sign would match those proposed for the Dixie Hwy renovation. She felt we should reinforce that with the developers to get their continued support for the idea. Domingo said he would ask the developers to come to a future meeting to give us an update on the project.

Domingo announced that he is continuing to attempt to schedule the speaker from Community affairs from the FL Dept of Health in Broward. So far they have run into conflicts with the meeting dates. He is currently working to schedule him for the July meeting.

Domingo announced the following upcoming meetings:

- July 10th, MRTNA BOD Meeting at 5:30 pm. / TBD
- July 13th, MRTNA General Meeting at 4.00 pm. / MRT Park

Dick made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tony seconded. All voted in the affirmative and the President adjourned the meeting at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Eaton
Secretary