



**MIDDLE RIVER TERRACE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 4561
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338

***MIDDLE RIVER TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SUNDAY SEPT 14TH, 2014***

The September 14, 2014 meeting was held at the 13th Street Police Substation with 18 members and guests present. President Domingo Cid called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. It was determined that a quorum existed.

Present:

- Domingo Cid – President
- T.J. Fiori – Vice President
- Steve Stahl – Secretary
- Donna Fiori – Treasurer
- Laura Croscenco – Past President
- Joann Block
- Jan Palmer
- Charles Scheller
- Franco Gordina
- Debbie Lee
- Harry Lambos
- Cindy Smith
- Lorraine Saunders
- Al Battle
- Diana Alarcon
- Karen Mendrala
- Scott Peterson
- Dylan Lagi

Jan made a motion to accept the meeting agenda and T.J. seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative.

Laura made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13th General Meeting Minutes and Debbie seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative.

Laura made a motion that due to the fact our location, days, times for our meetings have changed, we need to purchase 6 or 8 new signs depending on the cost to post around the neighborhood prior to our general meetings. Jan seconded the motion and Steve is going to get a price or where to purchase from the city printer.

T.J. made a motion that MRTNA file an application with the city for a 2015-\$35,000 NCIP Grant for 2 entrance monuments to resemble the monuments that are included in the Dixie Highway Improvement Plan. Laura seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Laura made a motion that we hire a contractor to remove plants, vines, liter and a post surrounding a tree near the eastern corner of 13th St. and Dixie Highway, next to the Bridal Shop

for \$185. Jan seconded the motion. A discussion took place with all details of the work to be done, including the raising of the branches to attain the proper contour of the tree. Debbie said she has a landscaper, and she will obtain an estimate from him to match the specifications above. It was decided to proceed with the lowest possible cost and to hire one of the 2 contractors. The motion was approved unanimously.

POLICE REPORT

Tom Gestal reported that has been quiet in our neighborhood, but specifics are not available due to procedure changes and hopefully it will be available next month. Debbie informed Tom of the move to another location of a drug dealer, and Laura brought up the homeless problem at the caboose. Tom will keep an eye on the drug issue and stated they are not having much luck in keeping the caboose area clean. Everything is taken away and they are back the next day. Trespassing continues to be a problem and the hanging up of no trespass signs is not working and businesses do not want to have anything to do with the signs. The man that was assaulted in Middle River Terrace Park has been taken off life support and transferred to Hospice. The assailant has been charged with homicide.

TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY DEPARTMENT

Diana Alarcon introduced Scott Peterson who spoke to us concerning the alteration of the curve on Dixie Highway close to the MRT Park. A discussion took place about making the entire stretch of Dixie Highway 25 mph. Diana will be writing a letter requesting that the calming features for the Dixie Highway Project will be designed for 25 mph. Scott Peterson stated that the radius of the curve will not change, but will only be moved to the west by 6 feet. Scott was present to discuss the curve issue only. He proceeded with a general conversation concerning landscaping, bio-swales and types of roundabouts that does not concern the Dixie Highway Project. Diana pointed out that there were different plans that she has discussed with Greg Stuart at MPO. Diana discussed the placement of the 2 monuments in the plan at the bridge and at 13th Street. A discussion took place concerning the existing trees, Debbie asked if it would be possible to have a meandering sidewalk to save some of the trees. Diana said that when the plans reach the 30% complete state that will be looked into. Construction will begin on the Dixie Highway new crosswalks in about a week. Within the next 5 years bike lanes and sidewalks will be added on Andrews Avenue from Las Olas to the north city limits.

Funds from Broward County are being used to fund the 13th Street Project, a public input meeting was held in May, 2014 and the participants were tasked to identify the components that they wished to have included in the project. The project will cover from 4th Avenue to the FEC Railroad Tracks. The 3 items that rose to the top in their exercise was on street parking, bike lanes and lighting. Other elements that were expressed of interest by the participants were crosswalks, shading along the sidewalks with the median being retained with the width being reduced. The items that were chosen are being used to design the project. When a signed agreement comes back from the county, the designing will begin with the project completion in 3 years. Domingo asked a question if there would be another exercise on the design and Diana said no, it is done. When the design reaches 30% it will be brought back just like Dixie Highway is going to be with the Middle River Terrace being included. The design will be done considering the amount of funds available. It will start with the top request and work the way down the list. Domingo stated that in the CRA meeting it was announced that a traffic study was going to be done in September and asked if it would be prudent to do the study with blocking of the 2 lanes that are proposed to be eliminated and creating the 1 lane in each direction. Diana replied that is not how traffic studies are done and they can determine everything including new buildings planned and being constructed that are going to impact the 13th Street Project. Laura expressed concern over all the buildings and the traffic they will generate to the already traffic jammed

Sunrise Blvd. and the additional impact on both Sunrise and 13th Street with the addition of a train crossing every 60 minutes. 13th Street is the only east-west road that is not traffic jammed. Traffic lanes are being removed for a hand full of businesses that is going to have a major impact on the area. Diana stated that she was going to cut Laura off, because she knows that she is very much against the project. She said the project is working on the walking, multi-modal vision plan of 2035 and she knows the project is going to hurt and what is going to be done is going to be based on the traffic study when it is completed. It could be that on street parking may have to be off on peak traffic hours. Debbie brought up the concern of flooding and Diana said they are going to try and work on as many elements that the funds allow for. Joanne suggested that we should participate in the on-line survey, Speak-up-Broward, sponsored by the Broward County MPO where you are given the opportunity to express your opinions concerning transportation.

CENTRAL CITY REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (CCRAB)

Al Battle is here to go over the mission of the CRA and answer questions. He stated that their were 3 CRA areas in the city of Fort Lauderdale to address specific unique issues in each area and are defined geographically and there is fact finding and the areas of concern are declared to be blighted. Projects that are chosen are to improve housing and commercial growth. The funds that are used in the CRA are derived from the personal property taxes within the geographical area of the CRA. Domingo said that the main questions we have concerning the CRA is the expansion of the CRA, what does that mean to Middle River Terrace rezoning within the CRA, and asked what kind of input we are going to have in those decisions. Al Battle stated that the CCRAB board looked at the other CRA areas to see what zoning is working that has created the best result for their area. The CRA is not a regulatory agency but plans and decides what is presented to the city commission for consideration and possible implementation after the public has an opportunity to voice their opinion on any rezoning. On November 4th, the CRA and the city commission are holding a joint meeting to discuss expansion and rezoning of the CRA and is open to the public. Domingo stated that at a recent zoning issue before planning and zoning the city lawyer stated that citizens are of little concern towards the approval or denial of zoning changes. Al Battle replied that he does not agree with that statement in the context of our type of zoning change. There may be a district zoning change which would mean that the only time that the zoning would change would be when the owner leaves the property and the home is torn down. As long as the house is sold as a house the new zoning would not be forced on the owners. The questions concerning zoning will be addressed at the meeting on November 4th. There will be an opportunity for the public to express their opinion. Domingo stated that the purpose of the expansion was to create more funds for the CRA to operate with. Al Battle stated that at the present \$40,000 revenue per year is not enough money to do any of the work the CRA is hoping to accomplish. Beginning in 2015, we are going to pay off the city staff expenses that we have accrued to this point and in 2016 begin a 5 year plan on paying our loan off with the city along with paying our staff costs yearly as we go.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

TREASURER’S REPORT

Donna presented the following reports:

Beginning balance	6/30/2014	\$4,610.79
<u>Income:</u>		
Pay Pal		49.24
TOTAL INCOME		\$4,660.03

<u>Expenses:</u>	
FPL	10.53
3 cases – Mixed Chips for Smartwater Distribution	37.17
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 47.70

FINAL BALANCE 7/31/14 **\$4,612.33**

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Beginning balance 7/31/14 **\$4612.33**

<u>Income:</u>	
Member	25.00
SmartWater	461.28
Total	486.28
TOTAL INCOME	\$5098.61

<u>Expenses:</u>	
FPL	10.53
TOTAL EXPENSES	10.53

FINAL BALANCE 8/31/14 **\$5088.08**

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Debbie asked if there are any signs available for sale and we have 2 metal fence signs @ \$31.80ea and 6 small yard signs @\$18.02ea that we are going to advertise for sale. Domingo said a discussion would take place at the next BOD meeting to set up another distribution for SmartWater and sign sales and will be voted on at the next general meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Canal Dredging at our neighborhood dock

At the last meeting with Dean Trantalis, Steve discussed with him the problem with the dock and the possible problems that the city’s storm water system has deposited sludge and has created a island around our neighborhood dock making use during low tide of the dock is not possible. He also gave the commissioner an application that could be applied for after January 1, 2015 for funds to do the dredging. The commissioner instructed Scott Wyman to discuss the matter of the dredging and ask where we stand on the actual responsibility for maintenance and repairs on the dock. On September 12th Lee Feldman sent a message covering the dredging only: “I have asked Public Works to include this canal in their canal dredging master plan analysis.” Steve has not received a reply as of yet concerning the maintenance and repair of the dock. Debbie brought up storm drains and plans for cleaning them out and if the dredging was going to improve drainage. Steve stated that the canal dredging is only going to clean up the canal around the dock and will have no influence on storm drainage into the canal. If there are storm drains that are not working properly, they need to be reported to the city on the Lauderserve site @ www.fortlauderdale.gov to be addressed.

DIXIE HIGHWAY 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Colleen is not able to join us today and present her draft plan for the Dixie Highway celebration of the 100th Anniversary. Colleen’s plan that she went over with the BOD is below:

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DRAFT

Dixie Highway 100 year celebration

Date and venue TBD, 4Q 2014 or early 2015 target, weekend day, likely MRT park

Event logistics:

- Color Guard and Bagpipe band – local military and/or LE groups
- Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation (Seafarers House Ron Perkins)
- Opening Ceremony – Mayor, City/county commissioners, City Manager – details TBD but to include progress in transportation history, Dixie highway planned improvements, student art from SM campaign displayed
- Gay Men’s Chorus performance
- Flash Mob – Broward College, FL High School
- Closing Comments

Event components:

- LE assets – Fire truck, SWAT truck, mounted posse
- Color guard
- Bagpipe band
- Chairs – everyone brings their own
- Audio – microphones for chorus, amplification of recorded music for flash mob
- Raised dais for chorus?
- Signage?
- Food?
- If possible, a few officers on segways (BSO has some at airport)

Participating groups:

- Broward College of Performing Arts – Daniela Wancier
- Fort Lauderdale High School – Armando Alejo (Daniel)
- Gay Men’s Chorus of South Florida – Gordon Roberts
- FLL City Hall – Junia Robinson, event planning
- City/County officials - TBD
- Media contacts
- LE - FLPD

SM Campaign/PR:

- Create facebook page for event and historic milestone – initiate contest for high School students to draft art work of various modes of transportation – post on Facebook page, collect votes
- Video component?
- MRTNA website, email blasts, Nextdoor notifications, SFGN, Sun Sentinel, local TV

Other:

Media contacts

Licenses

All Aboard Florida?

DMV

Safe driver education

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In addition to the above there was discussion concerning contests, food trucks with help from the city and additional dignitaries that will be asked to attend: Wilton Manors Mayor, Greg Stuart, MPO Director who is responsible for attaining MPO funds for the Dixie Highway Project. The actual dates for the celebration needs to be determined prior to any actual work to be done. Colleen, with Laura's help is going to determine the best possible weekend days for the celebration and get an agreement and availability from the parties that will be involved. Domingo stated that he is going to set up a Facebook page for the celebration and get with the Historical Society to get some history of Dixie Highway. Laura is also going to work on the Flash Mob Dance, an art project and an article for the school newspaper. Steve stated that Colleen should contact Chief Adderley to arrange for all the police related equipment from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, not BSO and Steve will work with the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department for Fire Equipment and participation of CERT members from Fire Station 16 that covers our area in addition to Wilton Manors. Steve will also utilize our MRTNA website and e-mail blasts to keep everyone informed as to what is going on and when.

REPLANTING TO BE DONE ON 7TH AVE. ALONG THE RAILROAD TRACKS

Domingo and Michael from the Lake Ridge Neighborhood Association have been attempting to find out when the combined celebration between our neighborhood and theirs is going to take place, but there is no word from the city yet.

WEBSITE

Domingo is attempting to get additional training for Dick and Steve and is going to give our web guru Jeff a call and attempt to get something set up.

ANNUAL FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The paperwork was finalized at the BOD meeting and Steve is mailing it to the state.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

All MRTNA meetings will be held at the 13th St. Police Substation from now on. The BOD Meetings will be held at 5:30 on the 2nd Monday of the month and followed by the General meeting at 5:30 on Thursday of that week. Tom Gestal is looking into getting us a key to the meeting room.

CANDIDATE NIGHT

Domingo stated that he is working on a candidate night on October 6th at ArtServe for the mid-term elections in November. There are going to be 8 neighborhoods involved. The details are below:

Civic Associations

Candidates Night



*Monday Night
October 6th at 7:00 P.M.*

ArtServe

*1350 E. Sunrise Boulevard,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
(954) 462-8190*

*Major Sponsor :
Law Offices of George Castrataro, PA.*

Join us for our 2014 Civic Associations Candidates Night

Also Sponsored By

*Flagler Village Civic Association
Lake Ridge Civic Association
Lauderdale Manors Home Owners Association
Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association
Poinsettia Heights Civic Association
Progresso Village Civic Association
South Middle River Civic Association
Victoria Park Civic Association*



*Come meet and get to know your Candidates for :
Two Run Off Judicial Seats ; Florida Senate and House Seats ;
US House of Representatives and Gubernatorial Elections*

CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS PAINTED ON THE DIXIE BRIDGE

The MRTNA was asked to consider having school children do drawings and having them duplicated inside the pink rectangular boxes on the bridge by an artist. It was decided at our BOD meeting that we would not proceed due to not knowing the scope of the Dixie Highway Project's plans for the bridge to be changed, if any.

ADOPT A STREET AND DOCK

Joann Block proposed that we adopt the dock and along a stretch on NE 18th Street from Dixie Highway to the dock and continuing along NE 8th Avenue to NE 15th St. the project details a

major clean-up 4 times a year with regular spot clean-up. All necessary materials to perform the clean-up will be supplied by the city. This project is for clean-up only no repairs or physical maintenance to the dock is included. The board has decided to accept the project and on acceptance, we will advertise for volunteers to help with the project, but the board will ultimately be responsible for getting the clean-ups done. Steve & Domingo are going to start the adoption and Steve is going to contact Ryan Henderson and let him know we want to adopt the streets and the dock

SPECIAL VOLUNTEER EVENTS

GREEN YOUR ROUTINE

There is a coastal clean-up project that our neighborhood is eligible for GYR points if 2 persons sign up for the project on Saturday, September 20th at Oakland Park and A1A at Earl Lifshey Park and be sure to sign the checkin sheets twice, once for GYR as a Middle River Terrace resident and second with the Ocean Conservancy. Details and a flyer will be posted on NextDoor and the MRTNA website.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Adopt-A Meal-Program : Volunteer opportunity
Hello Prospective Volunteer,

We are inviting you as a group or organization to our Ronald McDonald House of Charity in Fort Lauderdale to participate in our Adopt-A-Meal-Program. The Adopt a Meal Program provides a much-needed support service to the families who are taking care of their sick children, and often don't have the time, funds, or energy to prepare a healthy, home cook meal. This is one of the most satisfying and appreciated volunteer efforts in our organization. We will greatly appreciate your offers and efforts to participate once or continuously throughout the year. Please make contact with us soon to schedule a date to come and join us for more information. Also, feel free to share this invite to another qualified group who would be obliged to participate with us. You may contact us at fladopt@rmhcsouthflorida.org and Sara Hand at Sara@rmhcsouthflorida.org our weekday Assistant House Manager or (954) 828-1822 and speak with any of our staff who will be willing to share with you. Our House Director of Operations is Flora Nwalupue and her email: flora@rmhcsouthflorida.org. We look forward in seeing you and hope to hear from you soon. LP

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Stahl, Secretary MRTNA