



**Middle River Terrace
Neighborhood Association**

P.O. Box 4561
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338
www.middleriverterrace.org

MIDDLE RIVER TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

General Meeting

Thursday July 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

MRT Park Pavilion

General Meeting Called to Order: 6:02 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda: Jan Palmer, seconded by Colleen Lockwood

Approval of the Minutes dated June 16, 2016: Colleen Lockwood, seconded by Jonathon May

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance:		6,435.71
Expenses:	FPL (2 mos.)	21.62
SEO domain (website)		67.00
Ending Balance:		6,347.09

Police Report:

May Residential Burglaries	2
May Vehicle Theft	1

Overall number of crimes across all categories is the same as last month, which was down from the month before that. This month last year it was twice the number.

When asked why there has been improvement in the crime rate in the last year, Zach suggested it was due to a few agency programs: The ILP initiative (intelligence led policing) where law enforcement identifies the problem and focuses resource where it is needed and the ROC squad (rapid offender control)

Narcotics crimes have been on the rise; however, as resources are reallocated to other kinds of crimes, FLPD continues to assess where focuses are most needed and will make adjustments on an ongoing basis.

Officer Baro stated that the City is trying to obtain a grant to hire more officers for neighborhood teams and narcotics. A letter of support was distributed to neighborhood residents; many have signed the letters as a show of their support.

GYR Report:

On Saturday July 23rd 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the City is hosting a Hazardous Waste Disposal Drop-Off Event where city residents can drop off electronics, computers, paint, batteries, medicines, etc. for items not accepted in regular garbage pickup. The event will take place at Mills Pond Park, 2201 NW. 9th Avenue (across the street from Faith Farm Ministires). Proof of residency required. For more information call 954-828-5054 or visit <http://gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/greener-government/recycling-waste-reduction/solid-waste-events>

To learn more about all of the Green Your Routine initiatives, go to the GYR site – <http://gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/gyr-home-page>

Water bills – Joann pointed out that the monthly bill indicates whether the bill is for actual usage or is an estimate.

Joann spoke again about having your property certified for a wildlife habitat. All you need is to provide water, food and a place for the animals to hide, such as bushes, trees, etc. The “gyr” website gives information concerning this.

OLD BUSINESS:

MRTNA Board Candidates' slate was presented uncontested at the June MRTNA BOD and General Meetings. A call for an affirmative vote of acceptance of the uncontested slate of new officers (MRTNA BYLAWS - Article VI Elections, Appointments, Vacancies and Removals Section 1 - H. In the event that a slate of candidates is presented and is uncontested, the President may suspend the normal ballot voting procedures and call for an affirmative vote of acceptance of the uncontested slate) passed unanimously.

The Board for the next fiscal year is as follows:

Colleen Lockwood, President
Jonathon May, Vice President
Jan Palmer, Secretary
Tony Fiori, Treasurer

The BOD passed a motion to make a proposal at this July 14 general meeting to change MRTNA monthly General Meetings, from Monthly to Quarterly and at 5:30 p.m., starting immediately after the September MRTNA general meeting. This proposal will be advertised on our web and Facebook page. A final vote from our members will be conducted at the September General Meeting. A motion was made and passed unanimously. MRTNA BOD meetings will continue to meet on a monthly basis. The BOD is also investigating alternative meeting locations. Colleen Lockwood made a motion, seconded by Jan Palmer, to move the meetings from monthly to quarterly and to change time from 6:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This will be advertised for the September meeting.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Mr. Robert Garcia, Senior Meteorologist from the National Weather Service of South Florida: Robert is part of a team of 10 meteorologists covering South Florida.

#1 priority is to keep people safe. They have 120 offices around the country as well as covering 60 miles offshore. (Monroe County covers their own county.)

Areas West of Federal Highway have lower probability of having to evacuate.

Tropical storm vs. hurricane are distinguished by wind speed.

Recommend pets' vaccinations be kept up-to-date and have those records on hand in the event evacuation to hotels or public community centers is required. These records are often required to allow pets to be boarded.

Also check your insurance – floodsmart.gov provides reasonable estimates for flood insurance for your area. Once we get a named storm – anything that can hit us within 3-5 days -- you are not allowed to change your insurance until that named storm leaves our area.

Loss of a roof is the highest risk due to compromise of garage or carports - mitigation steps can be taken – relatively simple projects to lower risk – this will lower insurance premiums.

Penni Saginario, of the Broward County emergency department, was also present. It was pointed out to be safe and get away from windows and find a closet to get in. A lot of people do not pay attention to tropical storms, but these cause more flooding and tornados. An average season has 4 named storms. Residents should watch local tv and radio stations for updates and have sufficient food, water, medicines, etc.

Hurricane preparedness kits were passed out at the meeting.

OTHER:

Laura attended a meeting with Hal Barnes and other City staff heads from Zoning, Code Engineering, Code Enforcement and Sustainable Development regarding our streets and neighborhood entrances needing improvements and beautification priorities. Laura took pictures of our entrances that need much improvement and safety concerns. This was a good meeting and the City did not realize we had these deplorable conditions in our neighborhood.

NEW BUSINESS

We are pleased to learn that the MRT Children's Playground project is being considered. Last year our BOD attended several meetings reviewing the City's Parks and Receptions Master Plan. We advocated for help transforming our park from a "passive" to "active park". An Active Park has infrastructures like Children Playgrounds and Community Centers. Both are right now lacking.

Colleen, as our new president, said she would like to build and expand on our present projects and celebrate what we have. She would like for us to have more engagement and connection with our neighbors.

Laura suggested we make a walking path along the railroad tracks and have it beautified with trees and shrubs that would help buffer the trains.

Upcoming Meetings:

AUGUST RECESS

BOD Meeting – MONDAY September 12, 2016 at 5:30 PM – location TBD

General Meeting – THURSDAY September 15, 2016 at 6:00 PM

Middle River Terrace Park Pavilion

Meeting adjourned: 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Palmer, Secretary