



**Coconut Grove Village Council**

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Martin Zilber - Vice Chair  
David Collins  
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**Coconut Grove Village Council  
January 16, 2007  
Meeting Minutes**

On January 16, 2007, a quorum of duly elected Directors of Firm met to discuss and decide issues relevant to the business of the corporation. Council Members Hecht, Collins, Person, Niemeyer, Dubin, and Zilber were present and voted. The following discussions took place, including the enactment of resolutions as described herein:

1. Treasurer's report passed. Discussion about tax and corporate status.

2. Crime report. Gary disturbed about what is happening. People complaining about crime and considering moving. Introduction of Commander Martin, our new commander. Comm'r Sarnoff brought a 2003 comprehensive security study of the Grove business district. After presenting this Commander Watkins was fired. Comm'r Sarnoff also brought map, in Center Grove there are two officers. In 1986 to 96 there was the "Grove Detail". On Fri and Sat nights there were as many as 14 officers in that circle. We are 36<sup>th</sup> out of 37 paid municipal PDs in FL. Officers need a contract. We have 1180 officers, need 1500, not budgeted for that. Department is 250 short. Our department has the third highest calls per capita nationally. City needs to address contract issue and find 400 more police officers. 1/3 of officers' time is overtime just to fulfill need to police the neighborhoods. Commander Martin: average sergeant and four or five officers in the Grove. Sometimes mounted officer. Special events needs to schedule additional units on a limited basis. DK why they cut the Grove Detail; he believes it would be beneficial. Impasse on contract. Comm'r Sarnoff also mentioned we will be getting a state of the art training facility. Dubin asked why there is not a requirement that the officers stay here for a time if they are trained here. Marc needs our help to get the political will to get the police contract done. The citizens need to create the imperative. All-Grove Crime Watch declined the committee invitation. Gary says he will go forward without them and move forward with a Public Safety Committee. Martin suggested we do a mailing just for this. Felice asked: 1. she spoke to the scheduler, Anel, and Luis mentioned we are not on the

calendar for the first Tuesday of the month. Felice feels we should do this at the televised meeting. She thinks we should be able to show pictures of repeat offenders. We need to devise a plan to deter crime. 2. What is your phone number. Commander Martin will give number privately. Felice feels it is important that the number be given out. 3. Do you know how many police there are in M-D County? Are they paid more? Yes. Do you work together? The county is 3x their size. As far as pay they are better paid. They have memoranda of understanding to work together with other PDs should the need arise. Martin: FOP is County, Gables. PBA is City of Miami's union. 4. Felice's question about deterring crime. Commd'r Martin working with his people and will keep quiet on that for now. Felice asked if the Commander would go to the televised meeting and lobby for the new contract. Gary discussed the new committee again. Lottie mentioned we already have an All-Grove Crimewatch. Lottie has always supported the police department. Here, Lottie doesn't see us doing what we need to do. She feels like she should get out and make some noise about getting a contract for these police officers. When she was in Cleveland they recruited police officers. Gary wants All-Grove Crimewatch to be part of us because we have more access and we're more powerful. Gary likes what Martin said. Lottie says e-mails are fine but bodies and things are important. Michelle asked if there are timing issues we should know about on the contract issue. City says they don't have the money. Budget done end of summer, budget in October. David: repeated the issue is taxes; it's also about the money pile and letting the Mayor and Commissioners know that real people care about the money going to the cops. Also, David pointed out that the block of Matilda in front of the elementary school the police have never had control of that block. Sue McConnell said Robert Loupo believes the person who attacked the people yesterday is the same as attacked Pia in December.

3. Mailing. Gary pointed out the draft showed us as an impediment. Martin made comments. Gary has a \$500 invoice for the art director. Quotes from City Graphics. Four color piece about \$2,600 plus postage. David asked what the mailing rate is, thinks \$.075/piece. Guessing at least \$2,300 at the cheapest. Sue McConnell suggested the Crime Watch has \$31 in their checking account and we could supplement their budget.

4. Marjory Stoneman Douglas House, Jim McMaster. Presented proposed resolution opposing the moving of the house. This resolution was passed by the Friends of the Everglades. Eva Armstrong is no longer with State Lands. State of Florida purchased Marjory's house and gave her a life estate. Felice mentioned Friday at 5:00 pm the state land use department discussed this house, Kathleen Kaufman does not know what was decided. Felice spoke to Sally Jude (trust). Discussed with her that it would behoove her trust to come to the Village Council to let the public know her perspective. We should invite Fairchild too. MMN raised concern that there be something in place to make sure the house doesn't just end up being a wreck. Jim thinks that is happening. Why would Fairchild want the house? Good fundraiser. Tourists will want to see Marjory Stoneman Douglas's house. Will have to cut house in at least four pieces. Cost \$500-800K to move it. David: if Ms. Parks were to be involved in the Friends of the House we should consider giving some funding toward the fund. Ron asked Kathleen Kaufmann to give guidance as residents what we should do to resolve this issue. How do

we start? What do we do? The City has stonewalled us. Gary asked Ron to invite someone from the land trust and someone from Fairchild, as well as the people on Stewart. 3744 Stewart, lot next door is 3754. MMN asked Jim to come with Friends of Marjory who are committed to protecting and preserving the house. Will be on agenda Feb. 6.

5. Gary, Felice and Sue met regarding the candidates. They interviewed a couple of people who were disqualified. Seth Sklary gave an address not where he lives. Reverend Leonard doesn't live in the Grove. Down to 12. Brett Berlin withdrew. He's been named to the zoning board. Six finalists will present to us at the next meeting. Martin wanted to know about the people who were not selected and why. Gary didn't like Jeff Swartz ... he called the Village West the "black Grove". Two young attorneys who have done nothing in the community. Andrew Menachen, Andrew Paz, one or the other didn't know what the Village Council is. Some think it's a stepping stone to being a commissioner. Harry Gottlieb had an attitude. Came with a list of questions and then said he might not care to be selected. Is there a lot of work in this? Ron had comment about Jay Windsor. Neighbor of Ron's. Not active in his homeowner's association. Things he listed are as a consequence of being the manager of Mayfair. David mentioned that Jay was the only really competent manager of Mayfair they've had. Gary very impressed with Lili. David comment about Nathan: his favorite speech ever about Home Depot given by Nathan. How to vote. Martin suggested we vote for two. If two have a majority we're done. If one has majority, they're in, then we vote again on the next one. Martin will make written ballots. Sue will tally votes and wants someone else with her; Yvonne will do it.

6. Mercy issue. Nina came before them re street being cut from Glencoe. Ron got response from Related, there is no intention about a road being cut. Ron things they will go to the Commission with the reverting to GI idea. We need to let the public know this is going to be decided on Jan. 25 after 5:00. Martin is uncomfortable that some of us want to speak against the project when we supported the project. Ron raised that any zoning change needs to be specific to the project. David mentioned there are things we have gotten into as issues we don't have a lot of background in. This was one. Another was our decision about the Grand Avenue projects. Yvonne brought up fact that anyone dissenting against a council vote dilutes the credibility of the council. Martin has mixed feelings about it. There's a right to free speech. Gary: the person should say they were a dissenting vote and they should go to the Commission to give their personal view.

Adjourn.

Dated: 3/21/07

  
Michelle Niemeyer, Secretary