



Cocoanut Grove Village Council

Gary Hecht - Chair
Martin Zilber - Vice Chair
David Collins
Liliana Dones
Felice Dubin
Michelle Niemeyer
Lottie Person
Alyn Pruett
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**Cocoanut Grove Village Council
February 20, 2007
Meeting Minutes**

On February 20, 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, Zilber, Dubin, Collins, Person and Niemeyer were present and voted. The following discussions took place, including the enactment of resolutions as described herein:

1. Roll Call.
2. Minutes approved for January meetings.
3. Treasurer's report by Felice Dubin: Matt Ogurick, our pro bono corporate attorney, suggested we re-do our budget. The original budget came to \$30K. We're only allowed to get \$25K if we don't want to file for taxes. New and improved balance sheet was sent to Michelle Niemeyer. January 31 we had \$12,594.17. One outstanding check, which has been replaced. \$15,063 added. \$3K CD at CG Bank, now totaling \$5,563. They had higher interest rate. Biscayne Bank is a savings account.

Felice presented new budget for \$25K. Michelle Niemeyer moved, Ron Nelson second, unanimous vote.
4. Vote on candidates to replace Marc Sarnoff and Yvonne McDonald: Alyn Pruett and Lili Dones won with four votes each.
5. New members will be at our next meeting.
6. Matt Ogurick discussed 501(c)(4) application. Wants to give the IRS an inclusive list of past, present and future activities of the Council. The application is for a (4) instead of a (3) because we flirt with lobbying and support candidates even though we don't support one candidate. Other kinds of organizations that file (4) are condo associations, firemen's organizations, lobbying organizations. Lobbying is a major distinction; the other is whether or not it is important for the organization. Matt recommends we apply to be a 501(c)(4).

Martin Zilber moved we apply for 501(c)(4). Ron Nelson seconded. Unanimously approved.

Matt had some questions. Needs to put in prose how we engage in our activities. How do we make our resolutions? To change a resolution we follow Roberts Rules. Needs budget for this year and next year; financials from accountant for the last two years.

7. Felice Dubin has a problem with how we make resolutions. Issue ultimately not discussed.

8. Trina Collins came to ask for a resolution that would say that the Village Council would approve the neighbors who walk their dogs going back into Kirk Munroe Park. Several tennis players in favor. A neighborhood dog scared a child, may have bitten. Louie, the park manager, said the child was bitten. David Collins said in the past Jason Walker talked to Ernest Burkeen who refused to change the situation unless the residents asked for the change. Gary Hecht is uncertain whether a resolution is called for to address the issue. David made motion to do a resolution, Michelle Niemeyer seconded. Felice Dubin will call Burkeen's office. Bill Pinzow (sp?) mentioned that people showed up interested in this. Also, it is an unfair situation because all the parks allow dogs on leashes. Ron Nelson thinks we should be a board of last resort to some extent. Ron feels the VOCCG should make the effort and then come to the Village Council if they are unsuccessful. David is not withdrawing the motion. It is a simple, black and white issue. There was notice at the last meeting that the issue is out there. We are letting Mercy cloud our ability to make a meaningful resolution. Gary suggested we do a vote of support. David withdrew his motion. Lottie Person agrees that Felice should do the phone calls. Ron suggested if the phone calls are unsuccessful we put it on the next agenda and invite Burkeen.

Gary asked that we vote in favor of dogs in Kirk Munroe. Unanimous vote in favor. Felice will make calls to the City.

9. Refreshing the televised meeting. Eight people have spoken to David Collins who find us very tedious, pontificating and full of themselves. Accused of great long-windedness. Gary Hecht had a phone call from someone who said Gary is starting to turn people off. Tired of listening to Council members commending people and each other. David thinks we should limit ourselves to one or two minutes and no one should speak more than twice on a topic. We've lost the focus on public participation. Ron Nelson mentioned we have a tendency to be repetitive. It's not necessary. It's our responsibility to invite both sides. Felice Dubin thinks we need a tape recorder for every meeting. Ron thinks we take our power way too seriously. Felice disagrees. Lottie Person thinks we are a great and powerful group. We are an elected body.

10. Marjory Stoneman Douglas house will not be moved. They will post a ranger and it will probably be Katrina.

11. 27th Avenue Metrorail. Felice Dubin got a call from Matthew Schwartz. He has someone who would be interested in buying it from Mr. Rua. The City doesn't really have a role in it other than to vote it up or down. They can vote it down with recommendations. Alyn Pruett suggested he and Felice meet with Marc Sarnoff and Pete Hernandez; there are a number of holes in the standards. There's a legal issue: no public input when the size of the project grew. Gary Hecht asked where our involvement is going with this. Alyn will be asked to give an update on the standards at the next meeting.

12. Shake-a-Leg will be on the next agenda. One of the guys there told Felice they are doing all the islands.

13. Priscilla Morales will be presenting at our next meeting about 27th Avenue.

14. Felice Dubin wants to take the \$500 from the 27th Avenue committee and allocate it to legal fund if necessary. We did not vote on the issue at this time.

15. Gary Hecht wants motion to allocate \$500 to Crimewatch and \$500 to legal fund. Lottie Person moved on the legal fund. David Collins seconded. Lottie ultimately withdrew the motion.

16. Motion to allocate \$500 to Crimewatch by David Collins. Lottie Person second. Unanimously passed.

Dated: 4/3/2007


Michelle M. Niemeyer, Secretary