



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
April 03, 2007
Meeting Minutes

On April 03, 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, Dones, Collins, Nelson, Niemeyer, and Pruett were present and voted. The following discussions took place, including the enactment of resolutions as described herein:

1. Minutes passed
2. Treasury Report deferred
3. Commander Martin, police report: Commander commended for being selected to attend FBI training. Stolen autos. Some reports are really careless mistakes and oversights by the public. Don't leave keys in your car while you pay at the gas station. If in your driveway, turn your car off, and be aware of surroundings. Burglary – tourists don't want to pay for parking and park in unlit areas; these cars are preyed upon. Addressing lighting issues. Had a sidebar outside; last two weeks spring break. Extensive amount of trouble; stabbing at Barracuda in a bar fight. Ron Nelson's neighborhood has had a rash of burglaries with back doors being kicked in during daytime hours. Don't know if it's the construction element, people coming into the area. Ron says there are three in the last week. Ron asked if there's more we can do during spring break. Commander Martin indicated staffing is in place; what happened was an unfortunate incident. David Collins noticed since Operation Difference there are a number of hundred tickets being written at Grand and Mary. David is wondering if the problem is not lawbreaking citizens as a faulty intersection. David spoke to our NRO because he's concerned about hundreds of tickets being written. Michelle Niemeyer commented that ticket taking officers are not welcoming or beneficial to the commercial core of the Grove and also are not a good use of resources when we have more serious crimes like burglaries happening.
4. Commissioner Sarnoff. Gary commended Marc's efforts to date. Marc is proud of the dog ordinance for outdoor dining. Some things coming up shortly: 1.

5. Sasaki master plan will be seen April 10, Tuesday, 3:30 open house, presentation to WAB. Marc has seen revised draft, good plan, great increase in green park space. 2. We have got to do something about McMansions. North and South. Center Grove is R2 neighborhood. Marc went to Orlando Toledo at Planning and Zoning who says NCD3 has taken care of it. FAR was increased from .5 to .6, which may have contributed to the problem. Very excited that he's standing here with proposals from the Mayor. Green platform: City will expedite Green Building Initiatives. Will join the Kyoto protocol. Nine resolutions that will make Miami a much greener place. It's his job that those who represent us don't just write about green but bleed green as well. This week had the honor of meeting Bernard Zyscovich and saw his plan for Miami, and he was excited to see how with three moves on a chessboard the City could net 120 acres of downtown park space and the cost to the City is minimal. Other things facing us: very unsettled times because Tallahassee about to make changes in our tax laws. If they increase homestead by \$25K cost 9 M dollars. In two strokes of a pen \$61M off the budget, which is \$520M. He implores us to educate our constituents and do things in a careful manner. Marc supports portability of tax bill and inheritability, which will allow less fortunate neighborhoods to hold onto family homes. Michelle expressed concern that the Talahassee plan would take away even more rental property, and asked if City has expressed concerns. He indicated the City supports an income valuation on rental properties, not the "highest and best use." This prevents higher taxes from being caused by neighboring development.
6. Yvonne McDonald for All-Grove Crimewatch. March 14 successful community meeting. Practically every community in the Grove attended. Robert Loupo did an excellent job facilitating the workshop. He deserves congratulations. They have had a community block party in the north grove. Goal to provide a safety net for the neighborhood. Thank you to Peggy Bader for hosting the block party. After the workshop, this is where the rubber meets the road. Next meeting will be April 11, at St. Stephens. Inviting at least two people from each neighborhood that attended the workshop to further plan crime watch efforts.
7. Armando Paz briefed us on the County's meeting that took place the same time as our last meeting: Dept. of Community Development. They strive to provide for a suitable living environment and economic opportunities of lower income residents. Public hearing March 6 was to inform the public about resources they offer. Discuss distribution of Federal funds. Grants come from HUD. Non-profit and for-profit organizations can apply for the funds. Revitalization of the community. Commissioner Sarnoff was there. For more information, contact Barbara Gomez (305) 416-1978. Gary Hecht heard at last night's meeting that a problem in the Grove is that they look at the Grove as affluent even though part of our population is not.
8. New Committee, Alyn Pruett. Last month concerns were brought to the council regarding zoning. McMansion issue. Other issues were regarding apparent or possible zoning violations and whether or not those were occurring or if there were violations given variances allowing things to be built contrary to the existing zoning code. Are variances granted on a proper basis. In addition to creating the committee, the council requested the history of zoning variances in our community over the last two years. Goal to inform residents of how zoning works, policies and procedures,

what do you do if you see something that does not seem right. Important to remember this Committee is addressing existing zoning. Other goal is to create a process for a more continual dialogue with the people in the City who are responsible for enforcing zoning ordinances. Motion for resolution. Copy of original resolution as modified is attached. Alyn moved, Niemeyer second. Joyce Nelson commented the Resolution is excellent. Asked if we left out Special Exceptions for a reason. One problem she has seen is that the Zoning Board does not understand what the procedures are supposed to be. Education for the community is important. Joyce is glad Alyn will be working on this. Nina West suggested we pay attention to the comprehensive plan. Marci Weber thanked the Council for taking the NCD and McMansion issue into consideration. One or two things. Commissioner Sarnoff mentioned the FAR being changed. Resolution was amended as shown in handwritten notes on attached draft. Resolution passed unanimously.

9. Waterfront report by Michelle Niemeyer; come April 10.
10. Tree Watch report by Lili Dones. 27 Australian Pines slated to come down on South Bayshore. Owners mitigating with 110 trees. Non-native trees do not require any mitigation. HEP Board approved it because of the additional mitigation etc. Commissioner Sarnoff is going to be doing something about the fact that canopy is canopy. Looking into amending ordinance to assure that whatever comes down something should replace it. Ron Nelson has comment about property but not about the trees. Is there a plan for that property? Kathleen Kaufmann would probably know.
11. School system lobbying for impact fees on building permits. They have asked for us to do a resolution. Will come to Glass House.
12. Nina West and Grace Solares presented on public transportation. Miami 21 is a total upzoning and gridlock is getting worse and worse. Zoning will be increased exponentially. To take care of this we will need public transportation. City has proposed a streetcar. Each commissioner has been promised an additional spur of this line. Public transportation requires a public process. Concurrency with urban infill requires public transportation. Much of our public transportation is operated by the county. City gets 20% of the sales tax collected in the county; the streetcar would take 80% of that. Grace Solares addressed the issue of the streetcar. Provided handout attached to the Council. The City doesn't have the cost per rider. Grace Solares met with Mary Conway and the consultants. The consultants are the ones who will be building the project. They are not impartial public servants. Citizens Independent Transportation Trust oversees expenditure of the ½ cent tax. They passed a resolution supporting the position of the Roads Association that the project is lunacy. Recommends they implement a trolley system like that in the Gables before they get into it. City of Miami sent a letter to the CITT, copy not available. CITT responded in extremely specific letter dated March 8. Requested City use a trolley and explained why in detail. Many projects in the area the streetcar would serve have been done away with. Having an electric streetcar in a flood area does not make sense. It would be crippled for months in a hurricane. Ex-Mayor Suarez was guest speaker at MNU's last meeting. Alternative to streetcar would use FEC rail tracks for trolleys that can work on rail or have tires to go off the tracks. CRA has voted not to give a dime to the streetcar or the stadium. Ms. Solares asks that we let

our constituents know about this. Michelle concerned that 80% of the City's whole sales tax fund would go to this one project.

13. Notices: We won UEL's Orchid Award! Thank you to the UEL for recognizing our community's and our achievement.
14. Wall of Fame announcement – see attached.
15. Adjourned.

Dated: 7/18/07


Michelle M. Niemeyer, Secretary

**COCONUT GROVE VILLAGE COUNCIL
AGENDA FOR APRIL 3, 2007
CITY HALL CHAMBERS
7:00PM to 9:00PM**



**Coconut Grove Village
Council**

Gary Hecht - Chair
 Martin Zilber - Vice Chair *N*
 David Collins
 Liliana Dones
 Felice Dubin - Treasurer *N*
 Ron Nelson
 Michelle Niemeyer - Secretary
 Lottie Person *N*
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- I. Call to Order.....Gary Hecht, Chair
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call.....Councilwoman Niemeyer. Sec.
- IV. Minutes..... Councilwoman Niemeyer, Sec. *Passed*
- V. Treasurer's Report...Councilwoman Dubin, Treas. *Defer*
- VI. THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE... Commissioner Sarnoff/Ms. Yvonne McDonald
- VII. POLICE REPORT – Cdr. George Martin
- VIII. CRIMEWATCH – Mr. Robert Loupo/ Ms.Yvonne McDonald
- IX. VILLAGE COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. NEW COMMITTEE – Councilman Alyn Pruett
 - B. PLAYHOUSE COMMITTEE –Vice Chair Zilber/ Ms. Shelly Spivak, Chairwoman of the Board, Coconut Grove Playhouse
 - C. COCONUT GROVE WATERFRONT WORKING COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Niemeyer.
 - D. 27th AVENUE METRORAIL PROJECT – Councilwoman Dubin
 - E. COCONUT GROVE TREE WATCH Councilwoman Dones
- X. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Ms. Nina West and Ms. Grace Solares
- XI. REVIEW: EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IMPACT FEE ORDINANCE – Ms. Vivian G. Villaamil, Director Dept. of Facilities Planning/MPO Liaison Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

Notes:

Public Comments are held until the noted agenda item unless specifically authorized by the Chairman. Members of the public are requested to sign in at the meeting, noting the agenda item(s) they wish to address. Please limit comments to 2 minutes. Individuals and organizations desiring to make a community announcement, please inform the Chairman prior to the call to order of the meeting.

The agenda closes and becomes official at noon, FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. The general public may request to place items on the agenda by written notice or to the Council Chairman by mail or email at www.CoconutGroveVillageCouncil.com