

Coral Ridge Isles Civic Association, Inc.  
Members' Meeting  
August 18, 2021

The meeting of the members of Coral Ridge Isles Civic Association was called to order on August 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm by President Ric Buchanan with 14 paid members in attendance via Zoom.

Peter Partington moved that the minutes of the April 29, 2021 meeting be approved. Philippe Kuperman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Heather Moraitis, our District 1 City Commissioner and neighbor, gave an update on the proposed 20-acre park to be built by InterMiami at the Lockhart Park site. The City Commission discussed at their last meeting to allow InterMiami to cancel their obligation to build the park as they need additional parking and expansion of their sports operations. The original plan called for two-thirds of the park to be devoted to soccer fields that could be used by local children and adults and one-third to consist of a community center, walking trails and playground that would be open to the public. Vice Mayor Moraitis advised that if they renege on their contract to build the park, they are not penalized in any way. She also mentioned that the taxpayers of Fort Lauderdale are spending over \$1 million a year for InterMiami to use the property. She advised that \$25 million of parks bond money is available for Lockhart Park but she hopes to find outside funding through Public Private Partnership (P3) to build the park, including a community center of approximately 9,000 square feet with an Esports area on the second floor and a playground. She opposes allowing InterMiami to breach their obligation to build the park and encouraged those in attendance at the meeting to contact the Mayor and the other three commissioners to voice their concerns.

In addition, Vice Mayor Moraitis mentioned the 3.5 acre green space in the downtown Flagler Village area. The City received an unsolicited proposal for a private developer to build a concert venue on the site. The civic association in Flagler Village is strongly opposed to this use, as is she. Again, she suggested emails to the Mayor and three other commissioners.

Officer John Davis of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department reported that the new police chief will be starting work on Monday. He reported that in the past six months, we have had 10 auto thefts, with four in the last month. He has posted "Where is your fob?" signs in the neighborhood, as nine vehicle burglaries in the past six months have occurred, and in seven of those, the cars were unlocked. He said that three or four of those occurred in the shopping center at NE 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Commercial. George Sheehan advised that he had witnessed drug activity in the neighborhood and reported it to the police. Officer Davis advised he will contact the narcotics unit to follow up with this.

Bruce Hedges reported we have \$9,762.07 in our treasury with 58 paid members in 2021. The storage unit is our only recurring monthly expense. Nick Merollo and his partner are maintaining the landscaping at the south entryway to save us that monthly cost.

SE Quadrant Leader Peter Partington reported that the City is installing speed humps on 51<sup>st</sup> Street from NE 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He had asked the City to conduct a traffic study on this street and two others several months ago. None of other quadrant leaders had a report.

Under New Business, John Dool advised he had given a presentation to the Board regarding re-starting a Newsletter for Coral Ridge Isles. It will be sent initially to all single-family residences and people can opt to receive an electronic version if they prefer. The board and committee chairs have all agreed to contribute articles. He will make a final presentation to the board at its September meeting.

Peter Partington reported that he has been in contact with the City's parks director about upgrading Floranada Park. There is \$873,000 in the parks bond for upgrading restrooms, providing shade for the bleachers and upgrading playground equipment.

Ric Buchanan reported that the school board has voted to bring in portable classrooms for Rickards Middle School after the roof collapsed in the media center. The alternative was to temporarily close the school while construction was underway and split the students up between other middle schools.

Under Old Business, Peter Partington reported that the City has agreed to pay the cost of replacing the north entryway. He displayed the artist's rendering and advised that the contract has been signed by the City. The structure is being built off site. The Parks Department has agreed to install landscaping and the sprinklers will be repaired. In addition, the plan is to update the south entryway to match the north. The Association will pay all costs associated for the south entryway which are estimated to be between \$9,000 and \$10,000. Ric advised that he has a person who will head up a fundraising campaign, if necessary. Barbara Hume was asked to collect suggestions for landscaping. She will work with the Parks Department after the structure is installed.

Also under Old Business, Ric advised that committee chairs are needed for the Airport & Noise and Environmental Sustainability Committees. Chet Ludwick has volunteered to take over School Board Liaison once again. A representative is also needed for the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations.

Under Committee reports, Green Your Routine Liaison Barbara Hume thanked Barbara and Greg Boruch and Rita Goldfine for their help with the three Adopt-a-Street projects held so far this year. A fourth cleanup will be held in September. She also thanked Rosie Shade, Rita Meagher, Dottie Bassano and Greg Boruch for volunteering to help with the Butterfly Garden and Food Forest grooming at Snyder Park. She reminded those in attendance that we earn points that are converted into cash by the City. Last year we received a check for \$1,035. Of those funds, we must spend 25% on a sustainable project. The board voted at a recent meeting to pay our website expense of \$96 and make a donation to an Environmental Science scholarship student at Broward College. Barbara Hume moved that we make a \$200 donation to the Broward College Foundation for an Environmental Science scholarship. Robert Edick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Rita Goldfine advised that the Social hours at Smokey Bones are suspended until further notice.

Social Media Chair Rosie Shade asked that any information to be posted on the website or on social media be sent to her.

Under Membership, George Sheehan asked if there is a package that new owners receive. Peter Partington explained that the quadrant leaders presently send a welcome letter to new owners in their quadrants and advise them that they get free membership in the Association for their first year. Ric confirmed that the quadrants are divided on the north/south by NE 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and by the east/west by NE 56<sup>th</sup> Street. Houses on the south side of 56<sup>th</sup> Street are in the SE or SW quadrant; those on the north side are in the NE or NW quadrant. Houses on the west side of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue are in the NW or SW quadrant; those on the east side are in the NE or SE quadrant.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on motion of Peter Partington, seconded by Jack Hyman, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hume, Secretary