

Coral Ridge Isles Civic Association  
Board Meeting – January 17, 2023

President Ric Buchanan called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm on January 17, 2023, via Zoom.  
Present were:

Voting:

Ric Buchanan	President
Barbara Hume	Secretary
Eileen Mulkey	NE Quadrant Leader
Peter Partington	SE Quadrant Leader
Rosie Shade	SW Quadrant Leader

Non-voting:

Marie Benedetto	Hospitality Co-Chair
John Dool	Newsletter Chair
Rita Goldfine	Hospitality Co-Chair
Patrick Madden	Airport/Noise Abatement Liaison

On motion of Peter, seconded by Eileen, the minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2022 were approved as emailed to the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

In Bruce's absence, there was no treasurer's report.\*

Quadrant Leader reports: Eileen hand delivered one welcome letter in the NE quadrant. Barbara B. sent one letter sent to Ganz at 5821 NE 14 Way. Peter reported that the sunken pavers on the west side of the south entryway have been removed, and the area paved with asphalt. The repair does not match the existing pavers but it is all the City is willing to do at this time. He will contact Commissioner John Herbst to see if the City will re-visit paver replacement. He sent one welcome letter to Dave Ankit at 5250 NE 15 Ave. Rosie – no report.

Peter reported on the renovation of the south entryway. He hasn't gotten any updates from the one individual he had contacted to do the work. Ric asked for a general idea as to what we are looking for. He will send it to the president of the CFLCA to see if other Associations can help us find someone.

Ric reported on the proposed Pocket Park. The City contacted the owner on NE 58th Street. He was going to sell us only the back half. They worked out an agreement to buy the whole lot. Because it had been more than a year since it was appraised, the City needs to re-appraise the property. Somehow someone got misinformation in the neighborhood and the immediate neighbors are unhappy with the idea of having a park on that property. Ric has heard from two residents. They are very upset about a park there. Ric talked to the owner and he said that if he had an opportunity to sell to someone else, he could go ahead. Owner has talked to several residents who are in favor. Ric has heard nothing. Some of the neighbors are making accusations. One neighbor was talking about getting a petition started. Ric has asked Melissa at Commissioner Herbst's office to put the project on hold for now. Should we withdraw our

support for the time being? Eileen knows who is circulating a petition. She called Eileen today and Eileen recommended that she come to the members' meeting in February. Ric confirmed that the owner and the City have come to an agreement to purchase the entire lot. Peter suggested that the City buy the entire property and sell the house. The city attorney said if the parks bond money is used to purchase the entire property, the City could not sell the house. If this goes to a city commission meeting, any resident can object whether they are a member of CRICA or not. Peter says that this happens all the time with pocket parks, but there is never a problem with outsiders hanging out at the property. Ric said he found out from Melissa that it is on the park board's agenda. They will take neighborhood input at the park board meeting. Do we want to continue to recommend something that could create a lot of turmoil or should we take no position and allow the neighborhood to resolve the situation with the City? Peter suggested presenting it at the members' meeting in February after a staff member from the Parks Department gives a presentation explaining pocket parks. We will publicize that the subject will be discussed at the meeting. Peter reminded the Board that the City Commission will have the final say, and the opinion of the residents will be taken into consideration.

Nominating - Ric has one person who agreed to be on the committee, but we need a chair and three additional members. Rosie made a motion to postpone the annual meeting until May 17, 2023. Salim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ric reported on the Council of Ft. Lauderdale Civic Association's meeting. The neighborhood support team has several groups within it: an education officer who works with schools, a chief service officer and the homeless initiatives manager. They are willing to come and talk to the community and help the residents understand what they do. Most of the discussion was about the commuter rail and the fact that the city and county are cooperating. A decision has still not been made on the question of a tunnel vs. the bridge over the New River. There could possibly be nine trains an hour during peak hours. There will be a meeting on February 2nd to try to reach an agreement. There will be two separate buildings - one for city hall and one for county. City Manager also talked about the money available with the Infrastructure bill including a neighborhood re-unification program. City has applied to U.S. Dept. of Transportation for a grant. Working on a people mover around the airport and from the airport to the seaport. That may not happen until 2026. Announced that Disney Cruises has agreed to dock one ship at Port Everglades and possibly another ship there by 2025. Also working on getting additional gap financing for affordable housing. Last year they spent about \$5 million towards creating 2,400 units. They have \$15 million allocated for 2023. Taxes will not be raised. They have agreed that the Sheriff's Office will continue to run the 911 system. Allocated \$11.2 million for 911 to Sheriff. The sheriff will be able to hire additional staff. Working with federal government to get permission to use 911 (rather than 954 area code appearing on your phone) for return calls which is presently not allowed. Neighborhood Support talked about the Neighborhood Community Improvement Program, which was eliminated a couple of years ago because of lack of funding. A presentation was held on the task force to end homelessness. They discussed what they do when they get calls about homeless programs. One of the problems is that there are only about 10 rooms available in any one night in homeless shelters. They work with the city and the county in trying to tackle the affordable housing issue. You can't go to one of the shelters and be taken in without going through the task force. The task force works with the shelters to get people placed after they evaluate their situation.

New Business – Several individuals have contacted Ric about speaking at one of our meetings, most notably the mayor and State Representative Chip LaMarca. For the February meeting, we will have our neighborhood police officer and someone from the parks department. We will invite the Mayor and Chip LaMarca in May to the annual meeting.

Ric reported they are going to repair the asphalt on NE 18th Avenue.. They will start work this week. Pine Crest School wanted to reach out to us that sometime in the spring or summer, they are going to tear down a building on NE 62nd Street and build a new building. They will probably wait until their fine arts center is completed in late spring or summer.

Neighborhood Yard Sale - Barbara H. asked if board members would be in favor of holding a Neighborhood Yard Sale around April 1<sup>st</sup>. People could set up in their driveways and we would have space available at Floranada Park for those who didn't want to use their own homes. Maps would be handed out to direct people to homes participating. Rosie moved that we proceed with plans for a yard sale subject to approval of the Parks Department for use of Floranada Park. Peter seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Celebration for Heather Moraitis - Mary and Glenn Cotton are hosting a reception from 5:30 to 7:30 on February 2nd. The board was asked if we are interested in participating and giving her a proclamation. Barbara H. moved, Peter seconded that present a proclamation to Heather Moraitis for her years of service as our city commissioner. Motion unaimously approved. The Board and committee chairs are all invited.

Patrick Madden reported that he attended the Airport Advisory Board meeting in December. FPL needs to connect the power to Noise Meter #1. Without our saying anything, the board was aware of an aircraft flying low and very loud. They have technical grounds to raise the issue with the FAA. Hopefully this will be taken care of soon.

GYR – Barbara reported that we did an Adopt-a-Street cleanup on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Barbara and Greg Boruch, Rita Goldfine and Eileen Mulkey for their help. We are scheduled for the Food Forest on February 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 10:30. Need one or two volunteers. The Take5 Door Hanger Event is continuing. We will distribute door hangers in Knoll Ridge and The Landings. Rita volunteered to help with the Food Forest and door hanger event.

Hospitality – Ric advised that we must order appetizers by 6:00 for the happy hour prices. Rita and Marie reminded everyone that the Social Hour is this Friday from 5:00 to 7:00.

Membership - Dues are due for 2023. Encourage people to pay by February meeting.

Newsletter – John Dool reported that articles for the next newsletter are due by January 27<sup>th</sup> as he needs to deliver to the printer by Jan. 30th. We need to include information on the speaker for the February meeting. Ric asked Barbara to write an article on the yard sale and GYR volunteer opportunities. Ric is checking with a printer for a price on printing future newsletters, but we would have to provide our own mailing list.

Website/Social Media - Rosie asked how many years of minutes do you want to have available on the website. It was determined that two years was sufficient.

Peter moved that the meeting be adjourned. Salim seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hume, Secretary

\*I checked the bank balance after the meeting. We presently have \$11,428.24 in our checking account. We presently have 31 members paid for 2023.