



Cocoanut Grove Village Council

Every Third Friday
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, FL 33133
www.coconutgrovevc.org

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Marcelo Fernandes, Chairman
Linda Williams, Vice Chair
S. Larissa Ozols, Secretary
Rachel Cardello, Treasurer
Thaddeus Scott, Sergeant at Arms
Johannah Brown
Steven Dloogoff
Hank Sanchez-Resnik
Courtney Omega DeLancy

Friday April 20, 2018

6:30 PM

Miami City Hall

1. Call to Order at 6:40 PM
2. Roll Call
 - a. Present
 - i. Marcelo Fernandes, Chairman
 - ii. Linda Williams, Vice Chair
 - iii. S. Larissa Ozols, Secretary
 - iv. Thaddeus Scott, Sergeant at Arms
 - v. Rachel Cardello, Treasurer
 - vi. Hank Sanchez-Resnik
 - vii. Courtney Omega DeLancey
 - viii. Steven Dloogoff
 - b. Quorum Present
3. Pledge of Allegiance
 - a. The Pledge was recited by all those in attendance.
4. Housekeeping
 - a. Chair moved items motion to nominate Larissa Ozols as Secretary, motion passes. Simultaneous Motion to remove Larissa Ozols as Treasurer and nominate Rachel Cardello. Motion passes.
 - b. Introduction and swear in of new council member Courtney Omega DeLancy to replace resigned council member, Zachary Elliott.
 - c. Minutes approved by all members prior to monthly meeting.
 - d. Announcements of upcoming activities including the Commodore Bike trail ride with Mayor Suarez (May 12) and Janes Walk (April 29). Both to be added to the CGVC website.

5. Discussion Items (attached)
 - a. Updates on Cocowalk Mall project – Grass River representative.
 - b. Traffic issues for the Grove – current & future projects
Guest Speakers from Capital Improvements & Trolley Services.

6. Motions/Resolutions
 - a. RE-008 Coconut Grove Playhouse Resolution Passes 5-2
 - i. Public Comment, to consider that the cultural context is more than the arch in the front. More need for community space, 300 may be small considering the public funding expended. Consider other options to retain the auditorium as historic structure.

 - ii. Resolution passed with two conditions:
 1. A design presentation to Council and review/feedback at a date prior to County's submission for building permit that allows design adjustments
 2. Council expressed a desire to see more of the historic structure saved, not just the arch.

 - b. RE-009 Coconut Grove annexation of the OMNI CRA Resolution Deferred

7. Unfinished Business
 - a. Follow up on Colzie Co-name. Co-name of Gifford Lane to include Colzie. Council is behind the co-naming, HOATA is as well. Use leverage as Sarnoff did with McDonald. Discussion about the Co-name versus naming a corner, Gifford Art Stroll happens on that street

8. New Business

9. Adjournment 9:45pm

Discussion items:

a. Grass River Development Presentation

- Cocowalk and surrounding structures undergoing redevelopment as mixed use “lifestyle center.”
- Development to be more pedestrian friendly yet aware that the re-development will bring more traffic to the area. Goal is to be a “cool place to live and enjoy our home.”
- Vertical circulation will be improved so higher stories have better access. To the east a 5-story office space will be built upon existing foundation. Worked with MPA to improve Virginia street circulation with an 80’ drop off area for Taxi, Uber, etc.
- During construction of the office building Virginia will be a one way southbound only to accommodate emergency vehicle egress.
- Current Starbucks location and Fat Tuesday at the center of the plaza will be torn down. Starbucks to relocate across the street on the corner of Grand and Main (Former Coldwell Banker site).
- 18 months until leasing starts. Already looking for vendors that have similar character and “vibe” of the Grove. Not looking for national chains. M. Comrass is doing the merchandising plan.
- Landscaping is important and Grass River looking for lush result.
- Expect occupancy to be 50% retail 50% restaurants. Office space is promising since Grove has 2% vacancy, lowest in the County. Closer than downtown with the desirable address.
- For now Cocowalk is a tourist destination, development aims to have the location be more useful to locals, be the “living room of the Grove” which is currently Commodore Plaza.
- Grove look will be accented by terracotta banding and foliage. Atop the 78’ structure, there will be an open-air rooftop garden for tenants to reserve.
- ROW trees to remain and additional planting scheduled for the courtyard.
- Movie theater to be upgraded.
- Discussion about employment of locals, for construction and hiring locals once spaces are leased.
 - Developer does not do the labor hiring and is subbed to local labor force companies. They are the ones that advertise. Council can help by announcing the BID so residents can apply for work.
- Discussed another Grass River development (JV with Terra Group) to redo Douglas Station and mixed-use retail/residential.
 - Discussion about overpass to connect North and South with pedestrian bridge. Developer welcomes the idea, needs further discussion with County and other agencies. Perhaps an opportunity there.

b. Traffic Issues – Current and Future projects, Steve Williamson Director of Capital Improvements

- New 25 mile per hour Speed Limit passed. 2600 new signs throughout Miami. Public Relations campaign will roll out the new law. If not posted then the default is 30, so there will need to be public information and Police training.
- Signage even if a city request must first be approved by the County. County dictates all traffic Control devices. County requires a study for MOT and speed before approval. Works decided by City approved by county then placed on the Capital Improvements plan to start the process of installation.
- There are inter-local agreements in place for traffic calming devices in which City has authority over. For traffic Calming, County simply has an oversight role so the process is shorter, study then implementation.
- The Council requested the Master Plan from City staff to see upcoming projects that are slated for Coconut Grove.
- Discussion about enforcement and how the city intends to enforce the new speed limit. Portland Oregon has published best practices to learn from. Public Awareness and Officer Molina will best address how to enforce. Radars and on-site police are the norm in Miami.
- Public Comments specifically addressed the intersection of 32nd/ Day. Much needed traffic circle impeded by easement rights of an abutting neighbor currently prevents the funded designed of traffic circle to be built. City is adjusting the design dimension to accommodate terrain.
- At that intersection, there have been 46 accidents in 2018 sometimes occurring twice in a day. County has rejected a stop sign at that location. Director wants to meet further with community and find needs before plan is enacted.
- Traffic also reduced by rideshare “FreeBee” and Trolley.
- City Transit Director, Sandy Harrison, sees FreeBee as a Public-Private Partnership where city subsidizes part of it.
- Trolley had 26,000 passengers board in coconut grove in February. Trolley ridership is better than bus statistics.
- Modification in route to be announced on 4/27/18 Trolley will stop at Mercy hospital for turnaround not at City Hall. This will make the wait time for the return route longer.
- BID has a transportation master plan from PLUSURBIA; it is ongoing and not formally adopted by the City. It has multimodal features like a bike master plan. Question was raised about if the city has one in the works.
- Discussion related to bike path along South Bay shore Drive and the 3rd public meeting would be soon. Sea level rise committee proposed raising the roadway long the same section and therefore the bike path improvement would be bid at the same time as the roadway construction. The design-build package will be completed in 2019-2020 (Aviation/McDonald to Mercy Way).
- Resiliency effort known as “Complete Streets” will include raising the roadway and storm water drainage. This is a capital improvement that will rely of the forever bond.

Discussion regarding West Grove infrastructure in decline. This is a focus for “one Grove” implementation. For example, what is the process for replacing a sign that is missing if the County is in charge of all signage?

- Facilitator to Commissioner Suarez present at the meeting replied that there are several initiatives to address infrastructure improvements. The Office of Capital Improvements lists Main/Grand, 27, 32, 37 Brid Ave., Bird Road all south of US 1 as a few of the priorities.
- As far as signage, there is a new photo geolocation app called Miami311 introduced by Cynthia Seymour. The Miami311 app was developed by the County for the benefit of Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami. Residents can report via this app.
 - Reporting incidents via the app ensures that the concerns are routed to the correct municipal jurisdiction – depending on whether the issue is resolved by the County or the City. At this point, each case reported on the app will get a case number and be distributed to the proper municipal jurisdiction and then its corresponding department. There is a category called “Other” in the Miami311 app. It is the catch all for all types of incidents that are not listed on the app (ie: missing or downed signs). This enables residents to report issues while “on the go”.
 - For those that do not wish to use the app dialing 311 remains an option. In subsequent conversations with the City after this meeting, the City wishes to convey that the more people who are reporting issues that need to be addressed, the more effective our municipal services can be. The City will even notice “hot spots” where many neighbors are reporting the same incident or issue. Also, the Miami311 is not for reporting to emergencies or issues to the police. For that, people still need to reach out to 911 or the Non-Emergency hotline. For burglary, theft or other criminal activity, the police are available to write reports of those types of incidents.