

# Cocoanut Grove Village Council

## Monthly Meeting Minutes



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

*Miami City Hall  
3500 Pan American Drive  
Miami, FL 33133*

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January 28, 2019

6:30 PM

[www.coconutgrovevc.org](http://www.coconutgrovevc.org)

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call - Linda Williams, excused absence**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance recited by members**
4. **House Keeping**
  - a. December minutes approved
  - b. Agenda modified to elect officers to the Village Council. Bylaws of the Council state officers hold a position of a 1-year term with the Chair holding a maximum 4-year terms. Motion passed unanimously to re-elect current the officers. Motion passed to re-address the appointment of Parliamentarian by the board at a future meeting.
5. **Announcements**
  - a. Service awards were presented by State Rep. Nick Duran and Commissioner Ken Russell to Coconut Grove Elementary for part of Career Day to "Commissioner" Maria Mancia and "Mayor" Cristian McCoy".
  - b. .
6. **Public Comments**
  - a. Free tax preparation offered for families with an income less than \$55,000. Services are provided on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at St. Stephens.
7. **Resolutions:**
  - a. A RESOLUTION OF THE COCONUT GROVE VILLAGE COUNCIL ON THE Climate Change Response Plan For Coconut Grove's Public Waterfront – Passed 8-0  
Description: The resolution notices collaborative efforts of Grove 2030 with other city and county committees dedicated to resiliency and sea-level rise efforts. The resolution indicated collaboration at minimum specific intervals to ensure Grove 2030 involvement. Plan of action includes outreach programs to engage adults and youth and applies a continuous build-measure-learn approach to resiliency, which puts green and natural systems first and people at the heart of the approach.
  - b. A RESOLUTION OF THE COCONUT GROVE VILLAGE COUNCIL ON THE Woman's club of coconut grove plastic free initiative. – Passed 8-0  
Description: The resolution notices efforts like "ocean-friendly" restaurants awareness campaign, grassroots education efforts brought to schools to know the consequences of single use-plastics, especially to surrounding water means. The initiative brought forth should articulate a plan of action so merchants and residents so burden not on them; offer a plan. The resolution supports but does not fund this effort.
8. **Discussion Items**
  - a. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, And Green Spaces Committee:** Public Space Challenge. Background: Anyone with an idea is encouraged to apply. Public Space Challenge awards 15 – 20 grant recipients throughout Miami for good ideas to improve Miami spaces. Selection

process – vetted by Landscape Architects, parks employees, Miami Foundation, and community stakeholders. Government, non-profit 501c organizations can be direct grant recipients. If awarded, individuals and for-profits can seek reimbursement from Miami Foundation fund. Three Coconut Grove winners from Miami Foundation gave brief presentations on their grant-winning projects.

- **Charlies Woods.** Clean up wooded area at four corners area of neighborhood known as Coconut Park. Public Comment: Resounding, overall community response was to un-designate the play street and do not “improve” what is not in need of improvement. Leave it a natural passive greenspace.
- **Big Hill Park.** 30’x60’ park abutting the bay at the end of Royal Road: Winner, now in permitting process aims for resilience through design. Code prevents much of the ecological green infrastructure to be built. Public Comment: park should be meaningful for people and wildlife; shade trees better suit a park like this. Solve environmental issues and public can enjoy the space. Can there be a kayak launch?
- **Ahwahnee Road.** North Grove: Winner, along with grant we hope to complete parklet with neighborhood “go-fund” type of collection or other grants. Potentially a boiler plate for many other parks like this one; have the city get used to the type of variances. Walls on wither site of park makes it a conduit for water. Resiliency by design, new approaches, natural ways to polish water with mangroves. Connectivity to bay by a stepped seawall. Council could get behind these types of parks. This parklet could be a small space prototype to show broad array of design solutions in resiliency.

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- b. **Transportation and Mobility Committee:** Trolley Route – pending 6 month assessment review. Residents still express issues with route and reliability.

## 9. Unfinished Business

- a. **Housing and Zoning Committee:** Proposed NCD legislation 1<sup>st</sup> reading First reading was deferred until February 28. Green space types of homes, transit... it is a complex document. There are many needs and big spectrum. Attempt here to identify the issues, gain a consensus on what this community wants/does not want as well as concessions the community may proffer. If the concessions dilute the legislation, to the point it is not effective then what do we have to gain? Council and Public Comments and questions below were gathered to present to Commission office in preparation of Town Hall meeting hosted by Com. Russell.
  - Request a delegation of staff to verify terminology. The confusion of vocabulary like “FLR” divides the community.
  - What will the proposed legislation (here after “NCD”) achieve for Coconut Grove?
  - How will the NCD 2 stop the displacement of West Grove residents?
  - Explain why the NCD 2 is not the most restrictive document in the hierarchy of documents? Miami 21, NCD 3 and NCD2?
  - Provide residents with a comparison document of old versus new NCDs. What has been added? What has been edited? What has been eliminated?
  - Which draft of the NCDs is the commission voting on? [with redlines and strikeouts?]
  - Can we have an economic study substantiating the economic benefit resulting from proposed changes?
  - Where are the loopholes in the current NCD legislation that prevents it from having teeth?
  - How about sending the commissioners on a bus tour, a site visit, to see first-hand the over development that is changing the face of our neighborhood(s)?
  - A sunshine meeting between the commission should be held to better understand the NCD. Are public comments invited at a sunshine meeting?
- b. **Visibility Committee:** Funding, status & interagency coordination of Grove projects.- deferred
- c. **Visibility Committee:** Town hall platforms, topics of concern. Stakeholder Proxys - deferred
- d. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee:** Playhouse HEPB COA next.
- e. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee:** Colzie Corner Plaque vs. Co-

naming was discussed