

Cocoanut Grove Village Council

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*

Friday, January 24, 2020

6:30 PM

www.cocoanutgrovevc.org

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call - quorum
3. Discussion Items
 - Commissioner Russell presented status of Commission/District2.
 - Current commission tenor means unlikely passing of controversial legislation. NCDs are controversial. Breaking them up into less controversial pieces and start there with low hanging fruit, Tree canopy, Historic Preservation. Zoning interfaces with property rights, and must change the framework to define "neighborhood".
 - Traffic study in South Grove West of Douglas for speed limit signs – working with the County, who has ultimate say on 25MPH signage.
 - CRA annexation in West Grove if successful would focus on housing, historical structures, and infrastructure.
 - **Get project ideas to City early.** First tranche of Bond issued to fund sea rise, infrastructure, coastal access and, affordable housing.
 - Bayshore Drive, new study. Two public meetings long ago, CIP stopped the process. Public input may change. Higher roadway with proper shedding and no widening. Trees to make way for improvements, Bi-directional bike lanes and jogging path.
 - **Transportation and Mobility Committee: Objectives for 2020.**
 - Bike- ped/bike-vehicle interface in the Grove with priority on safety (Commodore Tr.)
 - Mobility priorities in conjunction of Grove 2030 Report
 - Scooters and safety. Deliberate City's Pilot Study
 - Bike/Walk to School Safe routes
 - 27th Ave corridor TOD project
 - US1 overpass over 27th overshadowed by SMART expansion of Metro, DTPW focused on expansion North and West
 - Encourage transit, Freebee program is expanding, trolley realignment (TA), moped sharing (run by MPA)
 - **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee Objectives for 2020.** Will continue efforts on: Playhouse; One-use plastics ban; Carrolton School rezoning; FIU "Re-leaf" initiative; Colzie Corner historic marker appropriate to Grove; Public Challenge Initiative (Royal road); and Update on sea-level rise initiative A. Clement. New initiatives for 2020:
 - Marjorie Stoneman Douglas House restoration
 - Recycling and frequency of recycling
 - Parks reserved for private functions versus public use
 - Music in the grove initiative with artists,

- **Visibility Committee. Objectives for 2020.** Maintain Website, Facebook, goal to have VC meetings broadcast on City TV. Continue interface with local government, grove community organizations, local events, etc.
- **Housing and Zoning Committee Objectives for 2020.**
- Participate in the Miami 21 *ad-hoc* board assigned to recommend changes to Miami 21. Prioritize a zoning study for all of West Grove, boundaries for NCD. Have zoning in place before next real estate wave. Prioritize density/intensity/affordability.
- Slow the pace of development in West Grove. NCD was given to us as the remedy to preserve the West grove, now it is legally weak – What can community do help the City in protecting our community? How can this community afford to live here? FIU study shows Miami needs 30K units in 10 years... 3000/year 800/district. Homes to be new or preserved. Bond money can be spent on private home renovations to achieve this goal.
 - Commissioner replies that funding available for single family reconstruction in West Grove and **he asks community to define line of where single-family zoning starts.** New construction on Grand, US1/Douglas Rd. is coming. **Residents must weigh density with affordability. Need community to bless increased density where appropriate.** He will introduce inclusionary zoning as long as there is a blessing of increased density. Zoning issues like lot splitting have a hard line.
 - Member shares community consensus that developer's property rights seem to exceed homeowners. Chair: incentives should exist in the new NCD language as long as there are conditions that are fair for everyone. Incentives for developers to increase density if and only if affordable housing is part of that density.
 - Member doesn't see systemic change- "back to committee" only exceptions are what get done, which they infringe on rights of neighbors. Commissioner said that lawyers will get around intent language of NCD but still fit in with interpretation of language of the NCD code. The result: developments appear out of scale yet are compliant. Prior administration has let us down with code enforcement and new administration aims to fix that. Specialist for NCD was hired to enforce the code as it should be.
 - Member asks where do the young AA what can we do to keep our families here? Commissioner's answer is better jobs. More office space means more jobs – he can legislate incentives and programs but not mandates – increasing minimum wage.
- Member addressed medical marijuana available in unincorporated Miami-Dade. Alternative pain solutions needed within city boundaries
- Public Comment: from residents:
 - Code compliance should enforce code and remove/cite those who pose illegal signage.
 - Resident affordable housing is a misnomer; affordable for whom? ACUs are a good idea to help with West grove single family residents to remain in their home and slow the tide for gentrification.
 - Charles Ave. B&B up-zoning, traffic study on Charles Ave. for speed tables, 3 years we still have no traffic calming? Street is full of pot-holes yet there are plans for a glorious pool.
- **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee** Carrolton / Villa Woodbine – Update applicant requested deferral until April 23, 2020 to be heard at Commission since the HEPB voted 4-4 and was therefore not approved. The property did sell to the Carrollton school.