

# Cocoanut Grove Village Council



## AGENDA

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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Monday March 9, 2020

6:30 PM

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

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. House Keeping
  - a. February minutes approved
5. Announcements
6. Public Comments
7. Discussion Items
  - a. **Transportation and Mobility Committee:** Miami Transit Alliance, Better Bus Project update. Presentation of publicly funded findings and proposed comprehensive bus routes throughout Miami. Premise of study based on transit networks (bus, trolley, etc...) should be designed for access to opportunity. Local non-profit organization, Transit Alliance, proposes a network that is founded on frequency (every 15 minutes) and breadth of service (along main axis streets). Council proposed to draft a resolution of support for proposed network option. Public Comment: A plan that is restricted by a "revenue neutral" mandate means cuts to some coverage areas in favor of more main arterials. Pinecrest for example, while ridership of residents is not significant workers that come to work in the area would be impacted. Signage at stops is substandard. Is that part of the solution?
  - b. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee:** Grove Bay Investments Group represented by Treo group's, Richard Perez. He updated on entire re-development and pedestrian path along Regatta Harbour status and opening. The city's tenant adjacent to the development refused access to update/realign utilities, drainage structures and infrastructure. Bay Walk cannot be completed without ingress. Litigation in progress. Council member committed to raise public awareness on the issue and get information from all parties, Public comment: Invites interested parties to Google the issues related to this matter to learn both sides of the story.
  - c. **Transportation and Mobility Committee:** Grove 2030, mobility planning workshop findings detailed existing conditions of the Grove and ways to improve mobility in the Grove. From the data gathered, goals will be prioritized to improve mobility and walkability in the Grove. Working committee under development
  - d. **Visibility Committee:** Executive Director, Nalisa Saati presented the goals and direction of Superhero Leadership Academy (SLA). The county-wide non-profit organization leads a program within four Miami Dade schools to empower and prepare at-risk youth to succeed in academic, careers and a successful path forward in life. Magnet programs here in Miami-Dade mean many

students go to school outside of their home district. Lowest performing schools need partnerships with outside agencies like SLA to help students run local chapters of the SLA. Students are taught to solve problems for schools and execute solutions for their community. It teaches them skills of critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration so they can become leaders of the future. SLA requests the Council to engage with students in two ways: let students help create solutions to local problems and local leaders offer first-hand access to successful community members. Young Grove Alliance uses schools and SLA as an organizational catalyst to learn about community and how to improve it. Member requested that SLA director draft a quick synopsis so it can be publicized on our website and the Village Council newsletter.

- e. **Visibility Committee:** Coconut Grove Village Spotlight, Village Council newsletter. Void was brought by the Grapevine to continue "voice" for local issues. Authors welcome. Council mailing list will be used to disseminate the Coconut Grove Village Spotlight. Committee member will take the lead as editor with positive, factual articles.
- Members discussed funding, money made from the publication could help contribute to needs of Grove residents that need help.
  - Members discussed the possibility of engaging students to write articles or even be the subject of the article.
  - Member proposed resolution that outlines the goals of the Spotlight be clear particularly with scope, topics and factual reporting versus opinion pieces since the publication is sent to individuals who have signed up to the VC email list. The Council email list was compiled as a means to send periodic emails by the Council to consenting individuals about local and Council issues.
  - Member stressed clarity for an "exit strategy" outlined by a resolution is especially important in the event the publication and/or editor leaves the Council or his/her term ends the newsletter will then become private. In this case, the resolution must be clear about what happens to the email list. Residents checking that box to be included on the Council's emails did not sign up for their contact information to be used otherwise. The list is a Village Council commodity and the Council should not allow the list to just roll over to the new non-Council entity. Member advised "It [the newsletter using the Village Council email list] has to stop. It has to be reactivated as a separate new thing." There are issues and concerns and they just need to be worked out via resolution. Guidelines for topics, and email mailing list guidelines are the purpose of the resolution.