

# Cocoanut Grove Village Council

## MINUTES



Marcelo Fernandes, Chairman  
Linda Williams, Vice Chair  
S. Larissa Ozols, Secretary  
**Rachel Cardello, Treasurer (not present)**  
Thaddeus Scott, Sergeant at Arms  
Steven Dloogoff  
**Sacha DuBearn (not present)**  
**Courtney Omega (not present)**  
Hank Sanchez-Resnik

*Virtual meeting Via Zoom*

*To join the meeting,  
please visit  
[coconutgrovevc.org](http://coconutgrovevc.org)*

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**Tuesday, June 16, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

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

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. House Keeping
  - a. March minutes approved
  - b. Omega resignation effective June 16, 2020
5. Announcements
6. Public Comments:
  - Go Vote Miami requests to have link shared with Visibility committee
  - Court hearing today on Playhouse. What was the result? Keep our eyes open. Could lose everything.
7. Continuing Discussion Items
  - a. **Transportation and Mobility Committee:** Free on-street parking. In order to be eligible for free first hour parking is to be registered on parking app "Pay By Phone". You must also register on Miami Parking Authority's website and furnish your proof of residency (See more at [www.support.paybyphone.com](http://www.support.paybyphone.com)).
  - b. **Transportation and Mobility Committee:** Update on Grove Connect mobility planning, workshop. Grove 2030 through the Grove Connect proposals that grew out of workshop and report to improve mobility and connectivity will focus on the intersection of McFarland, Grand and Main.
  - c. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee:** Temporary relief for restaurants in the Grove was discussed at different meetings with County, City, Grove BID and restaurant owners. VC chair also participated. County did approve street closures for outside dining and at this time owners are still experiencing very low customers and do not want streets closed until there is a more robust customer base. On Fuller a restaurant does want closures now and have applied for them. Street closures will help the retail when customers return BID, City and County are on board support them. Meetings revealed what owners do want are better sidewalks and permanent fixes, so ambiance is better in the long term.
  - d. **Housing and Zoning Committee:** updates to the NCD zoning continues to be deferred. VC Chair is in continuous discussions with the City and zoning staff to explain the importance of revising the NCD. In parallel, the City has appointed a Miami 21 review task force to look at all aspects of Miami 21. The task force is made up of residents, architects and zoning attorneys who are also lobbyists for large, local developers. The appointment of these three legal professionals has been appealed and appointment is under ethics review. Chair has requested of City Manager that VC member be included on task force.
    - **Public comment:** If the ethics committee takes no exception, the appointment is unacceptable, VC and other HOAs need to mobilize against appointment of lobbyists to review the zoning code of Miami.

- e. **Housing and Zoning Committee:** Illegal structures in the Grove.
  - Structure on Gifford was permitted as a remodel but was built new construction, city ruled in to demolish the structure. Chair Building inspection is delegated to code enforcement and it is not a perfect scenario, New code enforcement manager has things moving in the right direction. A resident brought this to the attention of the City.
  - Member questioned if the new restaurant next to Taurus with major construction, but no building permit is performing illegal work. (Grove Garden 3540 Main Hwy. application is in review and not yet approved), Vice Chair would like to know the finding since in a similar situation was not able to recommence work on their property.
  - Day Avenue, in a lawsuit with City expected to settle.
  - Member questioned if the Plaza and Franklin residential development has proper setbacks- Chair, familiar with the property indicated setbacks were probably ok.
- f. **Housing and Zoning Committee:** Carrolton School update. Virtual commission hearing on June 25.
- g. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee:** Civil rights protests, curfews, local government responses and action plan. Several VC members attended last Saturday's peaceful march in Coconut Grove. Organizers were spontaneous and the march was a finite effort and they will continue to engage within existing Grove organizations. West Grove long time advocates of this community leaders have a very good working relationship with City leaders and want to keep that intact. Member stressed that we embrace folks who want to bring a positive influence on this community. We invite them to be part of our efforts.
- h. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee:** Dream defender statement about protests in response to George Floyd's death. – Omega item; not present, resigned.
- i. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee:** COVID-19 local government responses and action plans. – Omega item; not present, resigned.
- j. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee:** Public seating. Discussed as part of item 7(c).
- k. **Visibility Committee** Coconut Grove Spotlight publication: The Grapevine was a private endeavor that blossomed over the years. With its cancelling, VC took over the responsibility. The Visibility Committee member as editor has since devoted much time and effort to continue a Grove-specific blog. The question is where does it go from here and how much of a VC endeavor is it? Capital improvements need to be made. The VC must discuss if it becomes an independent voice or a VC voice. It has been well received by the community. Internally will develop resolution and propose a way forward the best suits its continued publication.
  - Public comment: Fantastic job and I forward it to all my friends.
- l. **Omega resignation:** This VC is active for another 16 months. We are so far down the list of applicants, is it really the will of the residents? Discussion entertained considering engagement with community is a way to gauge next candidate. Discussion has to occur. Next steps: review bylaws, decide on how to move forward.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45