

Regular Meeting

September 16, 2016

City Hall (Chamber)

3500 Pan American Drive, Coconut Grove, FL 33133

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order by Chair, Dr. Kate Callahan at 6:05pm.

"Thanks" to the audience for coming out on a Friday evening; Commissioner Russell for bringing the Council back to City Hall; and, best wishes to Javier Gonzalez who is recuperating.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

III. Housekeeping

A. Roll Call: **Present**: Kate Callahan, Louise Caro, Seth Sklarey, Raymond Fort, Thaddeus Scott, Ruth Ewing, Steve Dloogoff, Louise Caro and Linda Williams.

Absent: Javier Gonzalez.

B. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes for July 20, 2016 were deferred to the next meeting.

C. Additions to Agenda

None.

D. Treasury & Budget Update by: Dr. Kate Callahan

- Balance at August 31, 2016 \$764.82

- Expenses pending: P.O. Box \$82.00 for the year.

- Kate Callahan: Recommend fundraising to address Council annual expenses of approximately \$900.00.

E. Police/NET Office

- Commander Morales:

- Improvements in most areas;
- Park Smart Program (secure your car and remove valuables);
- Over-dosing is very high in Overtown and Downtown areas but NOT here in Coconut Grove;
- Combating narcotics trade in Village West on Grand Avenue/Elizabeth Street and Thomas Avenue locations;
- Back-to-School (increased patrols regarding traffic violation complaints);

- Partner with Next Door campaign to increase awareness. Sign up at nextdoor.com. This is a free campaign and you must live in the area where you sign up.
 - Kate Callahan: Narcotics overdose affects the kids who often end up in foster care. Also, please give us an overview regarding Halloween and information that we can distribute.
 - Commander Morales: In past years, Halloween was a mess; we brought in barricades and our model worked; Wynwood attracted much of the traffic; we will continue to check ID's. When asked about County curfew, Commander advised that this is a tool available to police that is rarely utilized in that they usually just take kids home rather than arrest them.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Presentation by John Snyder and Grant Sheehan

- Conservation Districts: NCD-1 (Coral Gables); NCD-2 (West Grove); and, NCD-3 (Coconut Grove).
 - There are concerns about splitting lots;
 - Grove being permanently re-designed;
 - Only 15 days to "appeal" demolitions
 - No "Notice" to replat... Warrants required - in six years additional folio numbers are obtained and then owners get building permits, etc.
 - Current permitting is in violation of Miami 21 re: elimination of "canopy" and community character;
- Ms. R. Coats: I live at 3420 Hibiscus Street and would like to know if how this information affects the family directly?
- Commissioner Russell: This is a cry for help to an urgent problem. Historic preservation is a big issue with me.
- Linda Williams: The NCD-2 serves as protection of character for West Grove.
- Raymond Fort: How do we increase density and affordable housing at the same time.
- Seth Sklarey: There are areas that can be redeveloped to benefit the community. Recommend that we go outside the Grove regarding ideas on how to solve our problem.
- Kate Callahan: Recommend that we attend the Grove 2030 meeting(s). We have wiped out the community by not following the rules. With regards to West Grove, the County and City are in violation and causing gentrification.
- J.S. Rashid: Since 1988, involved with every affordable housing project in West Grove. The NCD-2 is a good document that need teeth in it; the commercial corridor will increase density.

B. Introduction of New Dist. 7 Aide, Ms. Carmen Morris

- Linda Williams: It is truly a pleasure to introduce Ms. Morris whom I recently met. She is filled with energy and enthusiasm with a willingness to work.
- Carmen Morris: Town hall meeting was discussed with Commissioner Suarez regarding affordable housing initiatives; Non-Profit Academy/Grants scheduled for October 29th and November 19th; and, in the 81 restored planters, 45 plants to be planted that will repel mosquitoes.

C. Historic Preservation of Homes

Deferred to next meeting.

D. Native Plantings Initiative
Deferred to next meeting.

V. **Old Business**

Social Media by Raymond Fort

Posting Articles regarding death of bees. Javier Gonzalez to advise.

VI. **New Business**

CGVC Housing Summit

- The Coconut Grove Village Council and District 2 will host a Housing Summit. Motion to champion the Summit was seconded and vote was unanimous.

- Discussion to invite all participants to have input along with Grove 2030 with combined input.

- Will try to set-up meeting on a Saturday with long Agenda.

VII. **Adjournment**

Next meeting TBA.

Motion to adjourn was seconded with a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Humbly submitted by:

Linda Williams

Councilwoman Linda Williams

Secretary, Coconut Grove Village Council