

**Regular Meeting**  
**February 17, 2017**  
Frankie Shannon Rolle Center  
3750 South Dixie Highway, Coconut Grove, FL 33133

**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order**  
Meeting was called to Order by Chair, Kate Callahan at 6:15pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.
- III. **Housekeeping**
- A. Roll Call: **Present**: Kate Callahan, Javier Gonzalez, Louise Caro, Ruth Ewing, Steve Dloogoff, Seth Sklarey, Thaddeus Scott and Linda Williams.  
**Absent**: Raymond Fort.
- B. Approval of Minutes  
Minutes for January 20, 2017 were not available. Will vote to approve Minutes at our March 17, 2017 meeting.
- C. Additions to Agenda  
None.
- D. Treasury & Budget Update  
None.
- E. Police/NET Office  
- Commander Gonzalez: There are concerns regarding traffic control for the Arts Festival. We have additional officers to assist with the traffic control and feel assured that the festival will be a great success.
- IV. **Discussion Items**
- A. Condolences  
- Kate Callahan: Mrs. Helen Miguel's father passed yesterday. Request a moment of silence. Thank You.
- B. Present Community Solutions from Housing Summit  
- Kate Callahan: Recap solutions from Housing Summit:  
1. *Financial Literacy* - Understanding the Lease; Budget and Savings.

2. *Land Trust* - Code Enforcement, Imminent Domain; Faith-based and Ethnic Group; Sue Landlords; Habitat; Impact Fees means testing before raising taxes; and Income/Expenses.
3. *Start a BID Organization* - Regarding permits and zoning issues for West Grove.
4. *Rent Controls, etc.* - Sunshine meeting (Wednesday) to discuss options. Follow-up with Commissioner Ken Russell.
5. *Develop Housing Task Force* - Investigate Plan; Investigate MUSP/Canceled? If so, how and when?; 2030 Plan; and HUD.
6. *Who Comprises Housing Task Force?* -

- R. Coats: Thanks for the Housing Summit as a show of interest. Residents didn't get enough time to speak. There are long-term goals for short-term issues.
- V. Ingraham: Solutions are actually Action Steps. We need money and land. The County is trying to start a Land Trust.
- Audience: How do we get the land?
- V. Ingraham: Lots of money is needed...
- William Armbrister: Property on Grand should already be owned due to taxes; liens, etc. by the City.
- Audience: Imminent Domain, if successful, must address "market rate" for the property which may be difficult.
- Kathy Parks: Read letter to Commissioners Russell, Suarez and Carollo following Sunshine meeting on Wednesday.
- Javier Gonzalez: What is our role (Village Council)? There are some non-conforming lots that we should buy. Also, re-purpose County land, i.e., the Fire College.
- Louise Caro: Imminent Domain - private land for affordable housing is a good idea.
- Javier Gonzalez: We (Village Council) only have long-term ideas but can pressure elected officials...
- Audience: Who gets the money?
- Carmen Morris: Let's evaluate Solutions from Christ Episcopal Church; let's come up with something now.
- R. Coats: Why are there HUD properties empty?
- V. Ingraham: Anyone contacted City or County? Focus is on West Grove.
- Carmen Morris: Working hard to get help...
- Seth Sklarey: How many displaced residents are there?
- Kathy Parks: 188 Units on Grand Avenue and 6 Duplexes on Day Avenue; Third World BS!
- Louise Caro: Legal Aide is where to go for help.
- Carmen Morris: Village Council to send letters to Commissioners regarding Task Force and funding set-asides.
- Courtney Omega: Hampton Inn... and other hotels.
- Carmen Morris: Pastors, please speak to your congregations; if you have a spare room; rental property, etc.
- R. Coats: Spoke with Commissioner Russell; possible banking HUD properties (here in the Grove) for residents from Liberty Square.
- Seth Sklarey: Javier's proposed solution - City declare housing emergency and perhaps, FEMA can place 10/20 trailers on empty properties; State/Federal assistance.
- Courtney Omega: HOATA didn't give support...
- Linda Williams: That's not true! We did give you support. You met with the HOATA Executive Board and suggested a "survey" be done, comparing it to Sharie Blanton's survey

which pertained primarily to the local youths for programming initiatives. We advised that many residents are unwilling to participate in a survey (pertaining to the housing issues) for various reasons and that a survey would not solve our immediate problems. We advised also that actual numbers would not fix our housing problems. We suggested to take the number of units along the Grand Avenue corridor and multiply an estimated number of persons per unit to get the numbers - even if high or low, we would not be that far off base. Also, HOATA does not have the staffing or manpower to do an actual survey but was willing to offer support with use of the Village House, phones, copies, etc. So, to say that we did not want to give you support, was entirely not true. We also stated that the youth component would be a good idea (for all community organizations) and that you could do the survey with the local youths and simply advise HOATA of your achievement for the HOATA Report. I also would like to know if any other organizations gave you support - rather than just stating that HOATA did not?

**V. Old Business**  
None.

**VI. New Business**

Develop Housing Task Force

- Letter to City of Miami regarding local spaces/rooms for rent.
- University of Miami - Video.
- Billy Corlsin.
- Developers.
- Collaborative Development Corporation.
- HOATA.
- Ministerial Alliance.
- Housing For All.
- Separate for Village Council but report to Village Council, City and County Commissioners.
- A Tent City will embarrass the City.
- Hotel Vouchers.
- Waive or reduce application fees.
- Donations/Go Fund Me.

**VII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was seconded with unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Next meeting **March 17, 2017** - City Hall (Chamber), 3500 Pan American Drive, Coconut Grove.

Humbly submitted by:



Councilwoman Linda Williams  
Secretary, Coconut Grove Village Council