

# RIO VISTA CIVIC ASSOCIATION- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2020 7:30PM

VIRTUAL MEETING ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE EMAILED TO RVCA MEMBERS

## 1. Call to Order

- a. Board Roll Call

### In attendance:

Christina Currie  
Chuck Tatelbaum (nonvoting)  
Mark Snead  
Julie Hough  
Nancy Messing  
Fred Stresau  
Lori Sterling  
Warren Sturman (nonvoting)  
JJ Rajter  
Bill Kirk  
Sam Koster

### No absences.

- b. Verify General Membership Quorum of 10% Less than 36 and we need 43

### c. Announcements:

- i. **Nancy Messing is recognizing 4 board members:**

**Recognition of Service**→**Warren Sturman:** President: Summer 2002 – September 2018; Immediate Past President: term ending October 2020. **Past Board Members:** Eladio Perez & Rob Ward. **Pending Officer Change:** Fred Stresau to step down as Secretary and Julie Hough has agreed to take over as Secretary.

- ii. Points of agenda may be written out of order to accommodate guests.
- iii. Please utilize use the Q&A Function. E-mail follow-up for unanswered.

## 2. Officers' Reports

- a. Treasurer: \$30k in account and about \$110k in prepaid security services.
- b. Secretary: Need approval of minutes available for review [HERE](#) from the following meetings:
  - i. Jan. 28, 2019
  - ii. April 29, 2019
  - iii. October 7, 2019
  - iv. November 18, 2019
  - v. Jan. 27, 2020
- c. CFLCA Representative: Meeting videos [HERE](#) [Currie is the rep with other associations throughout the City. You can view all meetings at cflca.org.](#)

## 3. Committee Reports –

- a. Nominating Committee: Re-cap (lack of quorum January 2020): Mark Snead or Bill Kirk
  - i. Julie Hough, Dr. “JJ Rajter”, Lori Sterling (ratification) - bylaws require us to have a nominating committee, but we have never had a quorum and we have three new members JJ, Julie and Lori, whose positions are still not ratified. Julie is stepping in as secretary for Fred and Lori is taking the lead on social media and JJ chairing the disaster committee.
- b. Security: Mark Snead
  - i. License Plate Reader Update by Mark Snead – new vendor with City and we have this week a new proposal for readers and another proposal from installation vendor.

## RIO VISTA CIVIC ASSOCIATION- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- c. Disaster Preparedness: Dr. “JJ” Rajter, Chair
  - i. COVID/Halloween – LA County came up with guidelines for recommendations for Halloween. No parties, festivals, etc. and door to door is not recommended because social distancing will be difficult to enforce. City of Fort Lauderdale has not taken a position and the City may want to take similar position as LA County. RVCA BOD previously requested guidance.
  - ii. COVID not a large number of people who are severely ill in South Florida, but we need to continue our measures we know work. The latest numbers from WHO and CDC show numbers around country and world increasing.
  - iii. Any members who want to join disaster preparedness committee are welcome and RVCA could use additional help esp. after a hurricane to find downed lines, clear areas, first aid area in parks to help neighbors with emergency care. Reach out to [president@rvca.com](mailto:president@rvca.com)

### 4. Old Business

- a. Cordova Sea Wall Project Website [Monthly Updates – see notes from Dr. Gassman below](#)
- b. Fire Station - Chuck Tatelbaum [see notes from Sorensen below](#)
- c. Traffic & Mobility Monthly Call Update - Currie has calls monthly and traffic study upcoming for 11<sup>th</sup> court. Radar speed sign on 9<sup>th</sup> near park and traffic safety items near tunnel and ADA ramps at 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- d. AHF – see notes from Trantalis below
  - i. AHF’S Proposed Initiative Ordinance 7.21.20 & City Attorney’s Reply 9.14.20 [HERE – on website you will find correspondence from counsel from AHF and reply. If you do not support the ordinance, email your commissioner as no quorum for position.](#)
- e. Still time to complete the Census and register to vote.

### 5. New Business

- a. [Mayor Dean Trantalis](#), City Update (Approx. 10 Min.)
  - 1. COVID 19 – Implores community to continue to follow face mask and social distancing guidelines. Boat show was being considered by County and City to still be held, decision was made to allow it to go forward because the promoters are following a list of protocols including limiting attendees, wear masks, all outdoors.
  - 2. Budget – impact of pandemic in City, huge impact on the income of FLL loss of \$34MM in fiscal year, does not include next fiscal year. We have been able to figure out ways to make up for lost income (ex., \$3MM in lost sales taxes, but we were able to refinance old bond projects and made about \$3MM). We are continuing to make sure future projects (bond money for parks) continue to move forward. City continuing to provide services, not lay off jobs, and not raise taxes. Millage rate at 4.11 been same for about 12 years. Also kept our AAA bond rating.
  - 3. Infrastructure – Some City projects of course need to be postponed but will not impact any infrastructure projects. New sewer line work continues throughout summer and until project is completed ahead of schedule and under budget. Completion of sewers estimated in Spring 2021. Storm water project also continuing. Cordova Road is being impacted by climate change. Working as aggressively as possible to build seawall. This particular king tide is higher than predicted and impacted Cordova and other areas.
  - 4. Job loss – Also had lost jobs due to COVID 19, increase in homelessness has been a major challenge. Working to deal with the homelessness problems in the community.
  - 5. Crime rate – lowest in 40 years and continues downward trend.

## RIO VISTA CIVIC ASSOCIATION- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

6. Census – Make sure to participate in census, date is cut off in 10 days. We are behind in Census count and we need to be more proactive because it impacts our federal funding.
  7. AHF – proposed ordinance – when the City Attorney came out with the opinion that AHF could not build in their proposed venue, they now have 1000 signatures to force commission to take up the AHF project to go forward on the site it has proposed. Essentially, they are asking for anywhere affordable housing is posed to be built anywhere the developer wants to build it. The presentation will be 10/20/20. Mayor does not believe there is a legal justification to allow the vote to go forward.
  8. Police – what is the future of our police force (question from general member) – we will see individuals who go beyond the scope of their authority. The demonstrations on May 30 and other items taught us we need to make changes. Changed our police chief also made some institutional changes in the past couple of months and years. Body cameras (officers have been wearing these for several years), more changes to come.
- b. [Commissioner Ben Sorensen](#), City Update – for questions reach [bsorensen@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:bsorensen@fortlauderdale.gov) or cell 954-218-3688 or Juan Saavedra [jusaavedra@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:jusaavedra@fortlauderdale.gov) or cell 305-988-4639 or Alex Heathcock [aheathcock@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:aheathcock@fortlauderdale.gov).
1. Minimum SF for residential units in downtown – looking at 400 sf minimum, could be incorporated on Downtown Master Plan. Right now, there is no minimum, but 400 is standard in City and other municipalities for efficiencies, interior only not balconies. Ben working with the FLL City Attorney on this one. It has to be brought before commission in October to share idea and get approval to tell staff to put into master plan. Also looking at maximum number of residences in buildings and working on that as well. RVCA BOD made 1<sup>st</sup> request.
  2. Tree ordinance – working with Fred for more public engagement around new tree ordinance. Delayed planning and zoning until we have enough to engage and have it where we want it.
  3. Transition zones in master plan – working on limitation on transition zones and moving ahead.
  4. Hector and VY park – moving along making water and stormwater upgrades in both parks. They are happening first and then move inside to upgrade and renovate the parks. Water by December and then going inside the parks; scraping off the entirety of topsoil and removing all structures, mitigating soil with lime and other material and then rebuild the entire park with better drainage.
  5. Tarpon River – sewage impacts was significant. Finalizing ESciences (our contractor) evaluation of impact to Tarpon River. Working also with state to analyze that report. Want the state to instead of fining us \$1.8MM to allow us to use for mitigation and we are making really good progress on that request. In the next couple of weeks, release mitigation efforts and then later a comprehensive plan for waterway quality in City of Fort Lauderdale (include dredging, mangroves, oysters, proper storm water runoff).
  6. EMS substation – in design stage.
  7. Five Ash – need to replace the plant and Ben is exploring public/private partnership – pushing to have public meeting about this as soon as possible.
  8. Himmarshee Canal – moving ahead to do core drilling and mitigation plan
  9. Homelessness – illegal to panhandle at high traffic intersections. Looking to get homeless services they need.

## RIO VISTA CIVIC ASSOCIATION- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

10. Police Station – building (Moss) was selected about a week ago. Currie or Sorensen will continue to update board on progress.
  11. Safety in city and neighborhood – working with PD on a list of improvements to the force including plurality of force who lives in the City. Better training for officers. National search for police chief is underway with City Manager talking to several candidates already.
  12. Ruben Stacy – only documented lynching in Broward County – Ben working with the County Mayor and state reps to memorialize Stacy.
  13. Styrofoam – state limits how much we can ban certain goods, but we can on city property and the City Attorney is working on options to ban.
  14. Federal Courthouse – moving forward with Hudson Site – there is a pump station and water lines that need to be moved. City will consider moving and upgrading if that will help solidify keeping courthouse downtown
  15. Convention Center – COVID slowed some of the rebuild, but it continues to progress forward. The bypass road through the port is being finalized.
  16. Lauder trail – pedestrian, etc. path throughout the City, main corridor north/south along spine of railroad. Working with the railroad to lease the east side of the corridor. \$5MM allocated now.
  17. Park bonds – several parcels we are moving closer to purchase. Any movement on Harbordale area park? Still exploring that park location, the property owner is asking for more than the City is prepared to pay.
  18. Fire Station 8 – supposed to be coming on line very soon, but Tatelbaum explained there are some issues with signals with the railroad. Raj was able to work out the signal issue and the fire station should be operational in the next couple of months.
  19. Vision for future of our City – need to challenge bad development, and invest and make economic development in the City, continue to partner with federal government for large projects (tunnel, bridge for rail), a light in equality, and leader in resiliency in sea level and waterway quality.
  20. Recycling – 50% is contaminated. We need to get better at recycling.
- c. [Raj Verma](#), [rverma@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:rverma@fortlauderdale.gov) - Director of Public Works, Tarpon River Restoration Summary (Approx. 10 -15 Min.) Bill Kirk introduced Tarpon River restoration project
1. Notice to Proceed has been issued
  2. Update on Tarpon River – at cusp of signing amended consent order with the state. All testing has been completed and findings are 98% complete, remaining 2% is to make sure the report is conforming to what the DEP wants and also to be in compliance with what the DEP has been requesting from the City. Trying to get credit for the cleanup, the value of the cleanup is \$3.2MM and do the cleanup in the right way. Restoration plan has to have blessing of Broward County and DEP.
  3. The best information is that there is a very thin layer of materials on the bottom of the river that can be directed attributed to sewage flow from December. The layer is less than 1” thick, but it is there and sitting on top of sediment and unwanted materials have deposited into the river bed even before the sewage breaks. No further degradation of the water quality and it has recently returned to normal. The intent is to clean the river the right way and to do so with the credit from FDEP.
  4. When we do cleanup, we will dredge the river, but we do not know exactly when will dredge the River – need to get permit from Army Corps of Engineers and we can only dredge up to the depth we previously dredged.
  5. High levels of bacteria increase when it rains because pollutants flow into water. Under normal conditions, the numbers are very steady and not high other than

## RIO VISTA CIVIC ASSOCIATION- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

during rain events. The question can be sent to Nancy Gassman and cc Raj Verma, but that is what they do.

6. Exfiltration systems around RV parks (stop water improvement and water line) should be completed by the end of December.
7. Sea wall project on Cordova should be completed within 2 or so months. Raj will update if that is not correct. Raj is clarifying that

### d. Dr. Gassman –

1. King Tides – unusual king tide this first one of the year. Predicted tide was lower than actual every day since September 3. This is one of the highest king tides in 20 years. Partially because tropical depression and a wind field that is from NE pushing tide higher onto the coastal area. High tides will continue although today is peak of high tides, we will continue to have winds and swell, we can continue to expect elevated high tides. Through tomorrow, flood advisory and tides through the end of the week.
2. Tidal valve improvements – were helping in Idylwyld and Las Olas were helpful, but now that we have such high tides, those areas are being inundated.
3. The project on Cordova is not complete and will not hold the waters until complete.
4. Flooding from private seawalls – enforcement ongoing in City for tidal waters leaving private property and individuals may be cited.
5. Raising homes? Many new homeowners are demolishing old homes and raising properties to comport with FEMA.
6. Citywide consortium with FEMA? Not a lot of home losses in FLL, mostly it is inundation of roads.
7. Flood gate in front of Port Everglades – that type of structure is enormously expensive and only limited value. Could help with storm surge, but not tidal flooding.
8. Is the water table a problem? Water table does rise, but seawalls provide protection from open water inundation and reduces flooding events.
9. Seawall ordinance – what is percentage people are in compliance? The way the ordinance is written, we were going to mandate everyone had to raise seawall. But it says only seawalls are only problematic if they are in disrepair or they are allowing water inundation into other properties or public roadways. 30-40 people have been cited and they are bringing their seawalls into compliance.
10. Individuals who have flooding around city – if flooding is on private property it is the individual who is responsible, but on city property call city at 954-828-8000 for help.

### e. Jenni Morejon, [jenni@ddaftl.org](mailto:jenni@ddaftl.org) - President & CEO of [Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority](#) (Approx. 5-10 Min.) –

1. update on DDA – independent taxing district - reiterates importance of federal courthouse project in Fort Lauderdale, also working on joint city and county government campus. Represents Sunrise Blvd. to 17<sup>th</sup> St. and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave out to US1 and focus on making downtown more livable (the streets, the parks and the people). Jenni will share a link with pictures. Want to move people as well as vehicles. DDA owns Huizenga Plaza and has been leasing to City for the past 4 years. As of last week, we are reimagining Huizenga Plaza and improving it over the next couple of years as well as other parks. Neighbors are invited to board meetings on second Thursday of each month and RVCA can give updates to the DDA. Working on an economic impact statement for downtown. Work on issues related to safety, infrastructure and many other issues the DDA covers.
2. Agrees to share surveys with Currie to share with RVCA members

## **RIO VISTA CIVIC ASSOCIATION- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

3. Snead to go to October board meeting for DDA

f. Reminder to Complete 2020 Census by 9/30/20 Online [Here](#)

g. Upcoming RVCA Meetings:

i. Planning Special Meeting: Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, [Jon Moore](#)

ii. General Meeting November 30, 2020

iii. Board Meetings Monthly

**6. Adjourn 9:17 pm**

**SUBMITTED BY JULIE HOUGH**