In Person Meeting @Rio Vista Community Church
Meeting Minutes
April 21st, 2025 - 7 PM

Call to Order by Lori Sterling, President of RVCA at 7:04pm

Board Roll Call

Present

Lori Sterling, Mark Snead, JJ Rajter, Bill Kirk, Nancy Messing, Fred Stresau, Ryan Lehrer, Solomon Schoonover, Lucy Mazza, Alex Jean, Evan Jaxtheimer

Absent - no members absent

Agenda Items:

1. Commissioner Ben Sorensen (BS) –
   - Opened conversation about City of Fort Lauderdale waterways
   - BS has developed an informal waterway group to raise/discuss issues and work with city/county
   - Mangroves – noted more mangroves will be planted; George English and Coontie Hatchee Park
   - Extended continuing partnership with Miami Waterkeepers program
   - Brought together key academics to understand metallic impact in waterways
   - City supporting "Church by the Sea" installing living sea walls

2. Presentation by Suzee Bailey (SB), Residents for Resilience (R4R) -
   - SB introduced R4R as not-for-profit working on addressing drinking water and healthy recreation water in the community, working to restore local waterways
   - Waterway pollutant levels high is RV waterways – Tarpon River and others.
   - Recommendations to monitor construction and developers impact on nearby waterways
   - Organization suggests and promotes natural barriers and solutions like mangroves, oysters, seagrasses, etc.

   Mike Lambrechts (volunteer, Coastal Conservation Association - CCA) also spoke further about water protection and support of local organizations.
   - CCA has done variety of reef restoration locally

- Also addressed George English mangrove development
- CCA worked to promote imbedded oyster beds along New River
- Lobbying for Chief Waterways Officer in city; change in City Manager has delayed hiring this position; concerned about hire
- CCA fees $40

Jeff Magio (Lunkerdog Inshore Fishing Charters) spoke about lack of funding for City waterway, and little work being performed

- Aquatic Solutions not performing as expected by citizens
- Spirited citizens and community to step up and speak out about need to address waterway, and hold City officials accountable.

Questions from attendees:

- To Ben Sorenson; why are marinas not held accountable to have operating pumphouses.
- What is the City doing about cleaning canals?
- Where does fine money go that is imposed on developer dumping?
- To Ben – mangroves were planted but then told to remove; why would City do this? Pretty basic tenet in Suzee's presentation.

Lori Sterling discussed new guidelines for recycling, including no plastic bags in recycling. City will be auditing; violators may lose their access to recycling.

3. Report from RVCA Officers
   a) President-Lori Sterling – No report

   b) Treasurer- Mark Snead
      - Prepaid security down, due to fewer residents contributing and costs increasing (rate for officers increased $8 per hour)

4. New/Old Business
   a) Sergeant Wright to answer questions
      i. Crime Stats
         1. 8 vehicle burgaries; unlocked cars
         2. 1 arrest where assailants identified by resident
         3. 3 home burglaries (minor items outside house)

   b) Code officer Gustavo Caracas to answer questions
      i. Why do people blow landscaping in waterways?
         1. Not very often in RV; leads to $240 fine

RIO VISTA CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

5. Open floor to any additional comments, ideas etc. from attendees -
    i. Question about Abreu Place – deferred by Lori Sterling
    ii. Street Sweeping – RVCA will report need to Code Compliance

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:13pm by Lori Sterling.