

Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association
Board Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2019
Highland Oaks Park Recreation Building

President Steven Parkins called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Board members in attendance were: Isaac Bendrao, Mort Braverman, Bill Clayton, Marc Hurwitz, Freyda Hyman, David Promoff, Brenda Auerbach, Marc Frankel, Madeline Langbaum, Cathy Pieters, Eitan Sasson, Jacci Seskin, Ahuva Stadtlander, Bob Weisblum, and Roz Weisblum. Steve thanked everyone for attending. Aaron Rubin attended as a guest.

Minutes: A motion was made by Mort, seconded by Brenda, to accept the minutes of the February 27, 2019 meeting. The motion was passed.

Finance: David reported that we have \$21,841 after the expenses of the Food Truck Night. There are still some sponsorship and membership checks to be deposited.

Volunteer Recognition: Steven announced that Trudy Lechner, after many years of amazing service, has had to resign from the Board to take care of her husband. She will also be moving from the area in the next few months. Bob made a motion to create a plaque for her, wording to be decided. Everyone seconded the motion and it was passed. Steve explained that each month he plans to recognize a Board member who has gone "above and beyond".

Membership/Outreach: Freyda shared that as of today we have 99 paid for 2019 with 139 of the 2018 paid members yet to renew. 6 people signed up at the Food Truck event - 3 renewals and 3 new, including 1 from the condos. After checking the names of people who received letters offering free membership during 2018, it was found that 7 signed up. The promotional piece is a work in progress.

Communications: Steve reported for Erica Chao that the announcements for the upcoming security meetings are on the website. NextDoor announcements will have the link to the website. Photos of the Board are still needed.

Security & CERT: Steve reported for Rick Schermer that 2 security meetings have been scheduled for North and South of Ives Dairy Road. Email blasts will go out, the meetings will be announced on NextDoor, and our 4 sandwich board signs will be put up in appropriate areas. Marc F noted that the hole in the County Line Road wall has been fixed at the homeowner's expense. Jacci attended another Community Advisory Council meeting. There was no news other than it is important to report all crimes. Our low crime stats mean we get less attention from the police.

Infrastructure/Traffic/Code: Bill will be doing Code Enforcement tours of the area in the next 10 days. At a recent Special Taxing District meeting, it was decided that when the next optional project comes up, postcards will be sent to residents with instructions to vote on it. There are houses in our area that are for sale and advertising as AirBnB. The County has not been monitoring this activity but will begin to do so. Some individual complaints were passed along for Bill to look into.

Parks & Beautification: Marc F announced that the County is working on improvements to Highland Oaks Park: adding a boat ramp, restocking the lake and cleaning up the lakeside. If you see a crocodile/alligator in your area, call Fish & Wildlife. Aaron gave a presentation on the birds and wildlife in the park. There are 156 species of birds and it is one of the top sites in Miami-Dade county for bird watching. He is suggesting periodic guided tours, especially during the fall and spring migrations. He may even be able to get the Audubon Society involved. He is also suggesting that an area be planted to attract butterflies. He feels both will attract additional use of the park. The right species of plants need to be added and he can help as an advisor. Devon, the Park Manager, thinks all of the suggestions are possible and will check with County officials. The committee will work on proposals.

Government Affairs & Grants: Bob & Roz have found that HOAs can apply for grants and he now has a contact person at the County who can help. There is upcoming grant writing training that they hope to attend. They will get a list of available grants based on possible projects: parks, beautification, traffic, trees, senior activities, after school activities, security and crime prevention. Steve met with Senator Pizzo's aide about the overpass. Steve said we will be "raising a stink" if the plan is unacceptable. He would like to form an ad hoc committee to work on this. Volunteers included Steve, Bill, Jacci, Brenda, Bob, Madeline, and Isaac. It was suggested that Jon Morton also be a part of this effort.

Community Events & Schools: Cathy spoke about the success of the Food Truck Night. The vendors were all happy and committed for the next time (Oct. 27). The digital board at the school was great advertising. Several suggestions were discussed for the next event. She thanked everyone who helped in various ways. Steve presented Cathy with the Volunteer Recognition award for her work on the event.

New Business: Isaac wanted to know if anything is being planned to help with traffic when the Super Bowl is here next year. Brenda suggested we have something to vote on at the next GMM to show the value of being a paid member. Jacci mentioned that the police are working on a new network, Intelligent, to replace NextDoor and get real time alerts on crimes. Bob raised the issue of changing the name of the HOA to something more inclusive. He made a motion to change our name to North East Miami-Dade HOA, seconded by Eitan. A discussion followed. Marc H suggested that we use that name as DBA. Several people thought the name was too broad, given the geography. The issue was tabled. Suggestions will be requested at the next meeting.

Upcoming Meeting: April 24

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by Freyda Hyman.