

Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association
Board Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2020
Held Via ZOOM Video Conference

President Rick Schermer called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Board members in attendance were: Mort Braverman, Bill Clayton, Marc Frankel, Marc Hurwitz, Freyda Hyman, Jackie Needelman, David Promoff, Stephanie Ruiz, Brenda Auerbach, Erica Chao, Howard Fine, Doron Friedlander, Madeline Langbaum, Leigh Needelman, Cathy Pieters, Aaron Rubin, and Bob Weisblum. Rick welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes: A motion was made by Doron, seconded by Jackie, to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2020 meeting. The motion was passed.

Guest speaker, State Senator Jason Pizzo, explained that State Representative-elect Christopher Benjamin could not be with us because his wife just passed away. He will be with us at future meetings. Senator Pizzo has been working on fixing the issues with Unemployment Insurance. He will try to help with individual issues if you call his cell - 305-505-8478. He answered questions on problems with the health of Biscayne Bay, the status of the US1 overpass, and the enforceability of the rules for short term rentals. He is working on legislation on the short term rentals, but needs a balance with local authorities. The group thanked and complimented him on his hard work.

Treasurer's Report: David reported that we have \$26,078.30

Membership: Freyda reported that we have 156 paid memberships for 2020 and 36 of the 2019 members have yet to renew. An e-mail was sent to the people on the Short Term Rental Task Force asking those who were not HOA members to join. This generated 7 new members. Rick asked the web designer to make the renewal function through our website more user friendly. This has been done. There is still editing that needs to be done.

Govt. Relations: Bob noted that the weekly food give away in Greynolds park is continuing. Covid testing is being done at the old Costco location. The millage rate on our tax bills is staying the same as it was last year. The owner of Presidential golf course wants to build townhouses on the site. He is trying to get the approval of the residents.

Events: Cathy announced that the food truck event is postponed until 2021. The annual holiday toy drive will begin soon, but logistics need to be worked out. She is thinking about a fund raiser to get gift cards for the police to be able to purchase toys. Freyda suggested that individuals can use credit card rewards points to obtain the cards since no one is traveling these days.

Infrastructure: Bill reported that many of the previously missed lighting poles have now been upgraded. He is trying to find out why the leaning wooden poles on NE 18 Ave. have not been removed.

Parks: Marc F said that there is signage and there are guards at the entrances to the park to tell people to wear masks. The caution tape around the playground keeps disappearing and a new supply of tape is due soon.

Communication: Erica needs to check the membership numbers on the web site to make sure they agree with our records. We still need to try to find a pro bono person to help with updates and edits.

Schools: Rick reported that Broward schools are close to re-opening and that Miami-Dade is a few weeks behind. The situation changes rapidly, but everyone is hoping it will be before the end of Sept.

Security: Rick spoke about the upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) for security providers. The goal is to have it out to bidders by May. It is not known yet if the educational requirements for the guards will be changed. Discussion followed on the need for increased requirements.

Newsletter: Stephanie led a discussion about the next newsletter. We have about 700 emails in our database. She thinks we should consider switching to an e-newsletter instead of the printed version. It would be less costly to produce. Over the last few years we have broken even, although last year we made \$600. Mort made a motion, seconded by Erica, to convert to an e-newsletter. After discussion, the issue was tabled for further research. We would need to purchase a list of e-mails for the area. We would still need to advertise the existence of the newsletter. She would still like to find someone to take over this task. Discussion followed on the best way to find someone: ask on Next Door, find a student needing an internship, etc.

New Business: Rick is waiting for responses from the 2 Mayoral candidates on when they can meet with the Board and perhaps do a community forum. He is still working on the continuing problems with the short term rentals. Our area has the largest concentration of these in the county. Rick thinks it would be best to hold off on having a Zoom General Membership Meeting. Marc F made a motion, seconded by Brenda, that we suspend all GMMs until we can meet in person. After discussion, Marc F modified his motion to include only the Oct. GMM. This was seconded by Doron and passed. The issue will be readdressed at the next Board meeting. Rick needs someone from the Board to chair the nominating committee.

Upcoming Meetings: Board = October 14 (probably via Zoom)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Submitted by Freyda Hyman.