



VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY
Minutes of the Village Service Committee Meeting of
January 6, 2016 at 7:00pm
Village Hall- 9705 East Hibiscus Street
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

Agenda Item No. 1- Call to Order

7:05PM- Meeting called to order by Chairman Rex Lehmann

In attendance:

Committee Members:

Rex Lehmann, Chairman

Jon Beisenherz

Roger Snyder

Robert Buzzelli

Edward Silva, Village Manager

Larissa Siegel-Lara, Councilwoman and Committee Liaison

Karen Cunningham, Councilwoman

Corrice Patterson, Director of Public Services Dept.

Agenda Item No. 2- Approval of October 1, 2015 Minutes

7:08 Motion made and seconded to approve November meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3- Public Comments

7:10 No members of the public present, therefore no public comments made. Councilwoman Larissa Siegel-Lara mentioned an incident at Coral Reef Park wherein someone brought a puppy to the sand area of the playground and allowed the puppy to pee and poop in the same sand where their own kids, as well as other people's kids were playing. She did let the man know that the dog was peeing in the sand. It may be a good idea to implement a dog park within Coral Reef Park, even though we do have a dog park at Wayside next to the BMW dealership. Board member brought up the liability issue of probable dog attacks that would need to be looked at if it were implemented.

Agenda Item No. 4- Discussion Concerning Welcome packets for new Village residents

Eric Eikenberg moved to formerly recommend to Council that staff mock up a Welcome to the Village letter or 5x7 postcard printed on both sides (not the 3 1/2 x 5) saying welcome to the Village and with information on services and maybe include some of these frequently asked questions in the packet as well. Another Board member mentioned that he believes there were approximately 300 homes sold in the Village just last year, and Larissa confirmed that information would be easy to track through the MLS, with precise information down to the zip code, street, days on market,

price range. Board member also suggested posting a Notice on the Public bulletin board at SW 144th Street since that's where most people would probably shop, and guide them to visit our website for new resident information. Larissa then suggested we could even get local sponsors who could be listed for services and distribute the cards in their businesses. Recommendation includes that welcome card be mailed every 30 days to new residents with website post directed at "New Residents". Motion seconded by Larissa Siegel-Lara. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5- Review/drafting FAQ webpage

Staff provided committee members with handout that includes recommended questions for webpage. Committee members will review draft questions and provide feedback to Village staff by January 15th.

Larissa commented that the Parks FAQ presented is weak and there should be more information for Parks. For example, what are the parks activities? Where can I see the calendar of park activities? That's not on here. The Park addresses would be helpful.

The Village Clerk's FAQ are interesting. Larissa stated that a good job was done preparing the FAQ and they look good. Board will review and revise as needed.

Board member asked what Villages services are underutilized. Larissa mentioned the County services, or 311 which residents don't know use. Corrice confirmed that Public Services do receive calls about bulky waste pick up and they are referred to call the county because we don't pick up waste in the Village.

It was determined that Board members will review the lists of FAQ for each department and fax back the editing and 3 questions off of each department.

Agenda Item No. 6- New Business

Board member asked about who decides where to "No Right Turn" street signs like the one on Old Cutler and SW 152nd Street. Response was that the County is in charge of signage. The light at that intersection is horrible because it only holds for 12 seconds and backs everything up, so he cuts left onto 74th and go up to 148th and come out on Old Cutler and come out at the high school parking lot. Now there is a "No Left Turn" sign, and I understand the issue, but that light is horrible. Larissa mentioned that could be resolved with a traffic circle. From a services view point people object to the roadworks that need to be done but this is the only thing that really works to slow down traffic. You can't have it both ways.

Corrice confirmed that more speed humps have already been ordered and more installations are being done soon. Board member stated that traffic is an issue in the Village right now. Larissa mentioned that money has been allotted for traffic enforcement, and purchase of temporary traffic calming devices, we implemented procedures on how to handle the complaints.

Corrice stated that we need to work with the County in order to be able to put a traffic circle. Studies need to be made and money needs to be budgeted for that kind of project. Larissa stated there is a traffic plan and a traffic circle could be something that can be done through this plan. Corrice mentioned upcoming neighborhood traffic workshops that will be held on January 27, 2016 for the Palmer Trinity area, and February 1, 2016 for the area of the 74th Court between 136th

Street and 139th Terr. There is a lot of cut through in that area because people try to avoid the school traffic.

Councilmember Larissa Siegel-Lara presented the proposed park fee ordinance to the committee, and provided context on the proposed fee schedule and the previous actions by the Village Council. The issue is that as part of the budgeting exercise an increase in fees was taken into account. The proposed increase in fees is an Ordinance and it has to go through two readings. In the first reading it passed 5-0, in the second reading it passed 4-1. Councilwoman Cunningham voted against the park fee increase of \$95,000.

Mr. Silva confirmed that the budget was approved in September and fees were approved based on those numbers. Larissa asked about the recovery rate and Mr. Silva confirmed that Miami-Dade recovers 0.28 cents of every dollar they spent on transit, as opposed to Washington DC which recovers 0.78/0.79 for every dollar.

Larissa- It's a good thing to be self-funded but the government entity is not a for-profit entity, but the dynamics of Parks is a little challenging because you have user specific services, so you choose to use them, and it's a pay per use system. Question becomes what is the appropriate recovery rate. The tennis fee increase was 100% and went from \$2.50 /player/court to \$10.00/hour/per court. We did hear a lot of complaints and as a result the recommendation was to roll back. We voted unanimously to roll back the tennis fees, and the rationale was that we made a mistake. In addition to this roll-back, at the second reading in January, Councilwoman Cunningham proposed another change and discovered that the tennis fee roll back accounted for \$47,000 of the \$95,000, and proposed another \$12,500 in roll back, something like that. So in essence we have now \$65,000 of the \$95,000 that we must fund if we approve the ordinance of the changes. Larissa recommended for Village Services board members to downstream Monday night's council meeting and find out themselves on the outcome. There is a question as to what the committee would advise as an appropriate recovery rate- whether if late fees should be considered, because right now it only happens per ordinance, if it happens. These current fees are 9 years old, and we are not keeping up with the business/service mentality of what we offer. Maybe we can offer league rate for those who play more often.

Mr. Silva brought up that Palmetto Bay right now in Parks is in the 20's. In other words for every dollar we spend in the parks we recover maybe 25 cents. Cutler Bay recovers less than 10 cents, Pinecrest recovers about 40-50 cents, and Key Biscayne recovers about 70-80 cents per dollar. The difference is that Key Biscayne has a community center that has money coming into it. If we take out Thalatta, our recovery rates would drop down to about 7-8 cents per dollar and the money that we recover at Thalatta stays at Thalatta. More than 60% of the users of our facilities are not Palmetto Bay residents. We are also, I think, out of Cutler Bay and Pinecrest, the only ones out that rent our library for free because if you are a not-for-profit, we give you are facilities for free, like we've done with Coral Gables.

After a lengthy discussion, including a visit by Councilwoman Karyn Cunningham, Eric Eikenberg moved that a recommendation be made to Village Council to defer any further action on fee ordinances until Village Services Committee can review, research and make a formal recommendation of consideration. The motion was seconded by Chair Lehmann and was unanimously approved.

The committee set the next meeting for Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00 PM at Village Hall.

With no further business, Roger Snyder moved that the committee adjourn. Second by Eric Eikenberg.

9:14- Meeting adjourned.