

## BEAUTIFICATION / LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORT - FEB, 2010

The Beautification / Landscape Committee met on Tuesday, February 16, 2010. Attendance included: Vinnie Piperi & Frank Crowley (co-chairs), Donna Collins, Ray Schlapfer, Bruce Jackson, Ann Sparks (board member), PJ Espinal, Carmen and Rob Smith, John Markopoulos, Ronald S. Blakely, Daniel A. Day, Jeffrey Calvin, Alvaro Gutierrez, JoAnn Smith (board president), Dolly Robinson (board member), Andre Kent (board member) and Dean Stillwell. This was our largest gathering, totaling 18 SMRCA members. Excused were Michael Prendergast, Gregg Pentecost and Brad Laird. The meeting began at 7 PM.

1. We discussed the issue of a "goal-oriented agenda," whereby from now on, we will make plans and dates for specific projects to be done and assure that they are completed by a certain deadline. We arranged 3 projects at this meeting: repairing the sign at Andrews Ave Bridge across from Drake Tower; re-furbishing the road closures with trash pickup, weeding, and watering within the following week; and working on the Community Garden in preparation for the Women's Club Gala Dinner before March 6, 2010.
2. The Swale Project continues. The City representative informed us that new applications must be mailed in, as the fax is broken. As well, it may take up to 2 years for swale completion due to budget restraints. We encouraged all members present to get at least 2 additional neighbors to sign up.
3. All the community signs have been painted. The one on Andrews Ave Bridge needs repair, as it fell down and is old and weather-beaten (see # 1). It may require a new sign altogether. JoAnn said she would look into getting this done if needed.
4. Trash and dumping are now significant problems in SMR. There is a dumping site and possible illegal inhabitation (squatters) at the vacant stores on Sunrise Blvd NW between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Aves. I reported this to code and called the realtor selling the building. I will follow up on this the upcoming week. We encourage everyone to pick up any trash around their homes as well as going to their neighbors' homes if they see trash. Ronald Blakely said he would like to start "zone captains" to monitor various areas of SMR to keep them clean. Donna Collins will lend him a map to work this out. Andre is in discussion with City officials. Frank suggests we talk to the City about giving stiff fines for littering. I mentioned getting "No Littering..." signs to be posted. Rene (absent) has forms for us to complete for community hour fulfillment for local school children and teens getting involved, including working with Sandra Sullivan at Warfield Park.
5. Many lawns are still overgrown even though the City gets private contractors to mow them, but not often enough. It costs the City about \$ 285 per lawn, and then the City bills the owner about \$ 500. We may have to mow them ourselves with the lawnmower Dolly donated to us in order to keep the appearance of SMR looking its best.
6. Everyone is encouraged to call code enforcement for trash, overgrown lawns, houses in disrepair, etc at 954-828-5207 or e-mail to [code@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:code@fortlauderdale.gov). Mike Maloney is our contact there. You can be anonymous or just say that you're part of SMRCA. Please call whenever needed.
7. At the road closures, some sprinkler timers are broken and need to be checked, but the last company we used (Windmill) has not returned our calls. As well, one pot fell over and another broke. We will get these replaced or repaired. JoAnn said she would call the City and ask for some better pots.
8. Some infrastructural needs include: the sprinkler timers at road closures; possibly a new community sign at North Andrews Ave Bridge; and lights projecting on the signs to be checked and repaired as needed. Andre will check bulbs to see if replacement is necessary. JoAnn will

get a new sprinkler company involved. NOTE: Jeffrey Calvin manually waters and maintains the road closure at NW 7<sup>th</sup> Terrace, which always looks great!

9. There is a lot of trash along NW 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets. We will design a project for cleaning these up from Powerline Rd to NE 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.
10. In conjunction with # 9 and other tasks, Jeffrey Calvin has already met with a Ft Lauderdale HS representative about their students fulfilling their community hours with SMRCA. Jeffrey asked me to write a letter that the school requested stating information about SMRCA and our committee and our mission/purpose. He spoke about his meeting and will inform us later about the progress of this. We will need to designate specific times for the students to work with us. Some of our committee members will be designated as able to sign the students' worksheets along with the SMRCA stamp being placed as well.
11. Carmen Smith spoke about 2 different grants she is writing to get us native trees for the road closures and elsewhere in SMR. She has already completed the one for Home Depot for \$ 2,500.
12. We briefly discussed that there will be a new site for feeding the homeless on NW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave just south of Sunrise Blvd. This is not within our boundaries and hopefully should not cause any problems in our neighborhood.
13. JoAnn informed us that we will be getting a \$ 25,000 grant from the City, which will plant, water and maintain trees on NW 8<sup>th</sup> Ave (a "blighted area") for 6 months. Hopefully, this will change the appearance of that street and enhance the quality of life for its residents. The City will also finish the project of planting sable palms along NW 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. These will be large \$ 300 trees. JoAnn will try to get some for the SMRCA Park.
14. The board is working on a new site for SMRCA's storage, to include landscaping equipment donated by Dolly Robinson and our shovels, rakes and gloves.
15. Misc business was briefly discussed to inform our members of the decrease in crime, a new newsletter (mostly on-line), a new flea market on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of each month starting 2/27/10 at the Church of the Intercession, "pocket parks," keeping track of all volunteer hours for Mayor Seiler's "100,000 hours" for Ft Lauderdale's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary starting in March, 2010; and putting out signs for our general meeting regarding its new location at the Church of the Intercession meeting hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

## UP-TO-DATE REPORT

As of this date, several members went to look at the sign near Andrews Bridge on Feb 17, 2010. We were able to stand it up and support it, so that it looks similar to the way it did before. We ask all SMRCA members to look at the sign so we can determine whether or not we should get a new one immediately or wait until it falls down again. Thanks to Ray Schlapfer, Alan, Ronald and Vinnie.

On Sat, Feb 20, nine of us worked on the road closures at NW 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Aves and NW 7<sup>th</sup> Terrace. We cleaned trash, weeded, cleaned up and fixed the timers. We also planted a new red bougainvillea as a gift to Dolly at NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave and repaired one fallen pot at NW 7<sup>th</sup> Terrace. Thanks for a great showing to Ronald, Ray Schlapfer, Carmen, Rob, Dolly, Michael Prendergast, Jeffrey, Frank and Vinnie for at least 2 hours each of hard work.

By Vinnie Piperi, Feb 21, 2010