

BAYSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (BRA)

NE 60th St. to NE 72nd St., Biscayne Blvd. to Biscayne Bay, Miami, FL 33138

BRA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

7:00 – 8:30p

Legion Park Community Center

Present: Will Arthur, Mariella Lopez De Albear, Brandon Berretta Paris, Janna McConnell, Don Bell, Tom McGlone, Andres Osorio, and James Sanderson (via phone)

Absent: Allison Greenfield, Allison Head, Ana Miranda, Andrew Piana, and Carlos Guzman

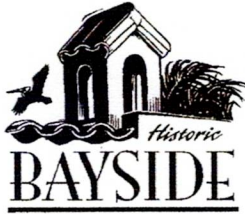
AGENDA

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2025 Annual General (Elections) Meeting – Janna (2 mins)
- Treasurer Report – Brandon (5 mins)
- Crime Report, Speeding Enforcement on NE 69th & Introduction of Neighborhood Watch – Upper East Side Problem Solving Team Supervisor Sergeant Frank Villareal and Andres (10 mins)
- District 5 City Commissioner (King) Update – Erica Taylor (5 mins)
- District 3 County Commissioner (Hardemon) Update – Marcus Barfield (5 mins)
- Discussions
 - BRA Website – discuss feedback process – Brandon/Bobby (10 mins)
 - 3/17 Community Meeting Recap regarding Midgard's request for upzoning in Little Haiti – Will (5 mins)
- Resolutions
 - Approve Project & Costs to Print Neighborhood Watch Door Hangers – Andres/Will/Brandon (5 mins)
- Committee Updates/Confirm Committee Members (40 mins)
 - Projects/Budgets (Chair: Tom McGlone)
 - Communications (Chair: Brandon Beretta Paris)
 - Welcoming/Membership (Chair: Janna McConnell)
 - GreenSpaces (Co-Chairs: James Sanderson & Allison Greenfield)
 - Resiliency (Chair: Ana Miranda – since Ana will not be able to attend, Will Arthur to convey Ana's update)
 - Architecture & Historic (Chair: Mariella Lopez De Albear)
 - Neighborhood Watch (Chair: Andres Osorio)
 - Social (Chair: Allison Head)
- Other Business (3 mins)

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MINUTES

Meeting Commenced at 7:07p

Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2025 Organizational Board Meeting

The minutes from February 19th were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Report: Brandon confirmed February initial balance was \$10,156.41. Dues of \$160 were added and a disbursement of \$68.21 was made for sign printing. Ending balance was \$10,248.20. Motions were approved for upcoming expenditures related to setting up the website for the BRAmiami and BRAmiami email accounts. These included \$88.87 for GODADDY and \$210 yearly for WIX/Google Workplace five email accounts for BRA officers (president, vicepresident, secretary, treasurer and info@bramiami.com). The tax status of the corporation is still being confirmed as part of our ongoing overall compliance review. Brandon has not received a response yet from Ana Miranda's non-profit CPA referral. So far, Brandon's research/investigation into the Association's potential "non-profit" tax status by searching the IRS database under our Association's name is coming up empty. Also, maintaining a non-profit status requires paperwork to be submitted to the IRS every few years, so Brandon's recommendation is that until we receive a letter from the IRS confirming our "non-profit" tax status, we act as a *for-profit* entity. Will has followed up with BRA's past president, Shane Graber, to get further clarity on the Association's tax status and past tax filings.

Crime Report, Speeding Enforcement on NE 69th & Intro of Neighborhood Crime Watch

Representative Officers Gonzalez and Diaz from the Upper East Side police team reported that the Upper East Side crime rate is down 36% so far this year but cautioned residents to be vigilant about locking vehicles and not leaving personal items visible in cars since that appears to be the sole reason for the latest spate of vehicular theft in the Bayside neighborhood.

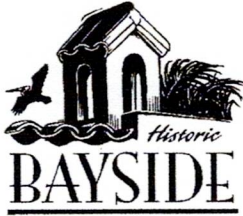
The main concern from the BRA Board and attending residents was speeding in the neighborhood, particularly on NE 69th Street, East of Biscayne. Residents in attendance confirmed that the primary offenders are delivery drivers, ride shares, contractors/construction workers. So, BRA Board requested the officers monitor not only commute times but also prime delivery times, such as mid-morning/afternoon and dinner time. The following traffic calming measures were discussed on this main neighborhood artery:

- Increase enforcement – Officers Gonzalez and Diaz announced that the Upper East Side police team has already placed a patrol car on that street and speed traps during commute times as a speeding deterrent
- Request the County strategically place "Slow Down" and "Slow Down/Children Playing" signs on NE 69th Street, especially around the curves and near Baywood Park. Will also requested the Upper East Side police team place a digital speed sign for a period on the straightaway after the second curve between Palm Bay condos (green building) and The Clipper to remind drivers of their speed and to heed the speed limit (30 MPH). Will committed to follow-up with Commissioner King/Commander Baker to secure this sign. These additional signs along with Justin and Wendy's request for "Slow Down – Windy Road Ahead" signs will hopefully serve to slow down traffic on this main neighborhood artery.

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- Each Bayside resident to remind guests, delivery drivers and construction workers who visit to follow our max speed limit of 30 MPH when entering our residential neighborhood and alert them of speed enforcement measures that have been enacted.
- Include NE 69th Street, East of Biscayne in Palm Grove traffic study - Will announced BRA's request to include our principal neighborhood street in this traffic study, which was approved by City Public Works

District 5 City Commissioner Update (Chairwoman King)

No representative attended from Commissioner King's District 5 Upper East Side office.

The BRA Board expressed how important it is for a representative from D5 Commissioner's office to attend future BRA meetings since it is their opportunity to update Bayside residents on the projects that they are working on in our neighborhood and to announce upcoming Upper East Side community meetings, as well as recap past community meetings that they work so hard to coordinate but that not all Bayside residents can attend. The BRA Board also emphasized that our meetings give both Commissioners King and Hardemon a platform to update Bayside residents and rally their attendance to future community meetings. Aside from publishing our annual meetings:

2025 Bayside Residents Association (BRA) Annual Meeting Schedule again – every other month on the third Wednesday @ 7 PM at Legion Park Community Center:

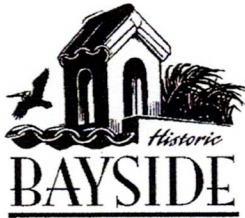
- Jan 26 (Annual General Elections Meeting)
- Feb 19 (Organizational Board Meeting)
- March 19
- May 21
- July 4th Bayside Neighborhood Celebration (Friday) at Baywood Park - come join and have a burger and hotdog on us!
- Sept 17
- Nov 19 (General Meeting)

BRA Board will always send out gentle reminders of our meetings in advance and would appreciate a response like Marcus Barfield graciously did for this meeting.

In the absence of a D5 Commission representative, Will reported on a Community Meeting hosted by Commissioner King's office on March 17th with Midgard Developers requesting an upzoning for multiple parcels in Little Haiti. Will conveyed that this is the same situation as MiMo Bay Development (Adela 2) next to Legion Park with ACRE originally requesting their two parcels be upzoned to T6-8. This development on NE 55th/NE 56th West of NE 2nd Ave has multiple parcels with different zoning (T4-R & T5-O) and Midgard is requesting the combined parcels be upzoned to T5-O, but in this case, *without proffering covenants* protecting the single-family homes surrounding the project from one day being sold to a developer who wants to take advantage of Live Local, which would allow the new owner to build multiple stories if

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mixed use project qualifies [e.g., 40% of the units must be designated for affordable (80% AMI) and workforce (120% AMI) housing].

District 3 County Commissioner Update (Commissioner Hardemon)

Marcus Barfield and Robert Beneby from Commissioner Hardemon's District 3 office were present. They announced that:

- A resolution introduced/sponsored by County Commissioner Hardemon was approved by the County Commission to honor native-born music artists by renaming several roads with their hit songs. Several roads between NW 18th Avenue and 19th Avenue (from NW 62nd and 71st Streets) will be renamed with popular songs under his resolution. Some County Commissioners expressed their concerns about naming more than 10 streets with song titles that might be considered inappropriate. Marcus explained that the purpose of his resolution is to make an economic impact into an area that is struggling financially by making the area a tourist destination.
- D3 approved more than \$2Mil from the Peace and Prosperity Plan, which awards grants to small businesses in D3 for the redevelopment of Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery in Brownsville, a privately owned, African-American cemetery that has been in a state of disrepair for decades. These funds will be used to beautify the cemetery by creating gate improvements, adding decorative fencing, installing new light fixtures and sidewalks, and planting new trees, as well as regular maintenance upkeep – these improvements will be a collaborative effort with the new owners.

Although BRA Board appreciated an update on projects within County District 3, Will requested that Marcus take the limited time at BRA board meetings to focus on the projects in D3 that specifically impact Bayside residents. Will also asked to meet with them at County Commissioner Hardemon's office at some point in April to discuss the County-controlled issues on the Upper East Side affecting our Bayside neighborhood and bring attention to the specific problems/needs faced by Bayside residents that County Commissioner Hardemon's office could potentially address. Will requested that progress on those issues then be presented at future BRA board meetings.

Discussions

First iteration of the BRA Website (BRAMiami.com) is ready for review by BRA Board. Bobby Berretta Paris is in the process of developing a website that will provide Bayside residents an interacting tool to communicate and learn about efforts BRA is undertaking with City, County and State officials and agencies to address our issues and improve our quality of life. In addition, BRAMiami.com will serve to give our association an online presence with the City and the greater Upper East Side community in which our neighborhood resides.

Next Steps: BRA Board members to visit site and submit their changes and feedback to Brandon. The rollout will be in four phases:

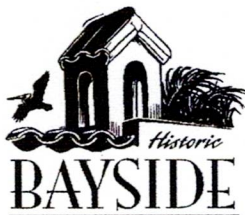
Phase 1: Create BRAMiami.com, website design, GoDaddy accounts, Email accounts, Bayside History - **COMPLETED**

Phase 2: Post BRA meeting dates, instruction on how to pay annual dues via Zelle, provide suggestion forms, links to community WhatsApp chat group, Neighborhood Crime Watch

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Phase 3: Calendar, events, pay dues and donate directly with secured log-in

Phase 4: Newsletter, blogs, links to BRA social media on FaceBook, Instagram and TikTok, and local retailer coupons and referrals, discounts and incentives for those who pay annual dues

Committee Updates

Neighborhood Crime & Traffic Watch Committee (Chair: Andres Osorio)

Commander Baker's goal is to institute this program in every Upper East Side neighborhood. To that end, a motion was passed to provide funds (up to \$800) for making door hangers for all residents explaining crime watch and encouraging participation. They will be printed front and back in English and Spanish. Andres has set up a QR code that links to a centralized registration page for Bayside residents to easily sign up to participate.

Projects and Budgets Committee (Chair: Tom McGlone)

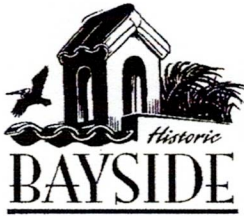
Tom suggested that we set a goal of at least 100 dues-paying members. Funds can be spent for various improvements to the neighborhood, such as power washing the entrance sign at Biscayne and 69th once a year and refreshing it with drought tolerant plants four times a year. Other ideas include having monthly professional cleaning of the barricades and providing "dog poop" bags stations to hang from streetlights throughout the neighborhood with no trash receptacles since that would require weekly maintenance. "Little Libraries" might be feasible on streets where they are permissible using private property. We will continue to sponsor the 4th of July neighborhood party and perhaps a Halloween party since there are now many families with children. Tom suggested that each Board member commit to attending at least one Commission Meeting/King Constituent Tuesday during the year to spread the responsibility and ease the burden on those who have been attending.

Resiliency Committee (Chair: Ana Miranda)

Although Ana could not attend, she submitted a report to the Board prior to the meeting. She reported that the 71st Street Pump Station has been upgraded and landscaped... mission accomplished thanks to the diligence/persistence of BRA's current Board Member, James Sanderson's constant follow-up with County Public Works. THANK YOU, JAMES!!! This committee has become part of the Citizens for Biscayne Bay and meets quarterly with DERM to discuss environmental issues in the Northern Biscayne Basin (North of 195 to 79th Street Causeway) from picking up trash and protecting the wildlife/rookeries on the spoil islands to creating manatee/seagrass protection & speed zones to posting better signage on the bay to increased marine patrol for boat safety to preventing indiscriminate anchoring of vessels off the coast in the bay. Speaking of the latter, despite every effort to have the "barge" removed, it remains anchored off the coast of Baywood Park. The committee has established a relationship with Sandra Moise, Board Member of Urban Paradise Guild and leader of the Citizens for Biscayne Bay. Sandra has been beneficial in keeping the committee abreast of many of the environmental initiatives in Miami including the Tree Ordinance, which was sponsored and ill-conceived by Commissioner Gabela in conjunction with the Latin Builders Association (Pres Melissa Tapanes Llahues). Due to significant public outcry, Commissioner King recently announced that this Tree Ordinance will be indefinitely withdrawn from future Commission Meetings until it can be properly vetted and reconceived by the public instead of special interests.

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Green Spaces Committee (Co-Chairs: James Sanderson & Allison Greenfield)

BRA Board requested that all stakeholders are present for the next Community Meeting hosted by Commissioner King to review the engineering report on the Baywood Seawall from The Clipper to NE 72nd St:

- BRA Board and other Bayside neighborhood representatives
- The Clipper
- Parks/OCI with Chris Evans/Hector Badia/Jose Perez for the Baywood Park portion
- Prescott Developers
- City Public Works for the end of NE 72nd Street
- Any other City officials who can help discuss where the remaining 50% funding will come from (FIND committed to 50% funding of the Baywood Park portion of this seawall). BRA suggested that the remaining 50% costs be raised through levying *impact fees* to Prescott Development. *Impact fees* are charges imposed by local government on new development (residential, commercial, or industrial) to help fund or offset the cost of expanding public infrastructure and services required as a result of that new development. Examples include roads, schools/libraries, parks, water and sewer systems, seawalls, police and fire protection. They are designed to ensure that growth pays for itself, rather than placing the financial burden on existing residents.

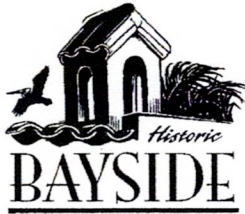
BRA Board requested that Bayside medians, particularly the medians on NE 69th Street after the Palm Bay entrance to NE 71st Street, be included in the City Public Works regular maintenance and watering schedule. (Will confirmed this with Yvette Harrell at Commissioner King's Constituent Tuesday on 4/1)

Outstanding Bayside Projects

1. Alternative side street sweeping in Bayside on the following streets, including the placement of permanent street signs indicating the day of the week and time for residents to move their cars:
 - NE 61st, NE 62nd, and NE 64th Streets (east of Biscayne to the Bay), along with the small section of N. Bayshore Drive to the North Pedestrian Gate to Morningside (off NE 61st), NE 7th Ave to Legion Park parking lot entrance (off NE 64th Street)
 - NE 63rd Street from Biscayne to Nirvana Main Security Entrance
 - NE 69th Street, East of Biscayne to NE 71st Street.
2. NO PARKING signs at the entrance to NE 69th Street. As discussed during a Bob Powers walking tour of Biscayne Blvd with Erica Taylor and Diego Lazcano from Commissioner King's office in March, there is a need to place NO PARKING signs on both sides of NE 69th Street at the entrance off Biscayne past the strip center on the SE corner of 69th and Biscayne. These signs are necessary to prevent severe traffic blockage in both directions due to delivery trucks that park there for the UPS Store. (SIGNS INSTALLED... NOW ENFORCEMENT IS NECESSARY). Additionally, Will requested Eric/Diego's help to ensure that signage and painted street arrows enforce the proper flow of traffic in and out of that

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same SE corner strip center. The first entrance to the strip center before NE 69th Street should be ONE WAY going EAST into the parking lot, with no exit allowed through that entrance (This request was made again during visit with Chairwoman King at Constituent Tuesday on 4/1)

Next BRA Board Meeting will be May 21st at 7pm in the Legion Park Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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