

BAYSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (BRA)

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



BAYSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (BRA) BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, May 20th, 2026

Time: 7:11 – 8:48 PM

Location: Legion Park Community Center

Present: Will Arthur, Brandon Berretta-Paris (Zoom), Ana Miranda, James Sanderson, Sonia Desai, Shane Graber, Jocelyn Maldonado, Mariella Lopez De Albear,

Absent: Allison Head, Allison Greenfield

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting commenced at 7:11 PM
- Audience introductions
- Agenda introduction

II. UPDATE FROM COMMISSIONER KING'S STAFF (DIEGO LAZCANO)

- **Baywood Seawall**
 - Waiting on update from finance department to see if moneys have been received, better update in a month
 - Design and permitting stage will commence upon receipt of these moneys, total approximately 1.2 million dollars of which half came from City and half from District
 - Construction phase requires additional funding of 4.5 million, which we do not yet have
 - Suggested speaking to Prescott developers about impact fees as there is a concern that building their seawall will increase flooding on either side which impacts their homes as well as the rest of the neighborhood and park
 - BRA President noted that meeting with Prescott developers would be scheduled soon to discuss concerns
 - Whether seawall will also cover 72nd Street is a question for Marcus Barfield (community liaison for County Commissioner) who was not present
- **NE 71st Drainage Exfiltration Project**
 - Similarly, waiting on approximately \$600k to be received and there will be a better update in a month
 - Once moneys are received, it will be about 2-3 months before "you'll be able to see shovels in the ground"
 - Likely 4-5 months of total work with the goal to complete before the end of the year
 - There will also be community engagement regarding landscaping
- **Traffic Calming Requests for 69th Street**

2026 BOARD

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- This is the next funding request because of the 2025 traffic analysis where increased speeding has become an issue—requesting a digital speed sign and/or three speed bumps on each side of the median
- Diego needs to further discuss with Public Works
- Diego did not believe there were enough to provide a permanent speed sign for 69th
- Cost of speed bumps approximately 540-600k
- **General Funding Discussion**
 - Diego noted that all of these projects combined is somewhere around 5.7 million dollars for a small area of the overall district when funding is difficult to find
 - BRA President noted, however, that this neighborhood are biggest part of tax base in District 5 yet we have been neglected on all of these issues
 - Board Member Shane Graber noted that Baywood Park is servicing everyone West of Biscayne too, not just the neighborhood, so this area should be a priority
 - Tax base has doubled, questioned where the money going
 - Diego suggested engaging State Representative or Senator to find additional grants for funding and stated he would help facilitate contact
 - Also suggested speaking directly to Commissioner King
 - Need to provide Commissioner a priority list before budget meetings
 - BRA President noted that almost no improvements have occurred in Bayside Historic District with the exception of Legion Park
 - Essentially all improvements made have been funded and done by BRA
 - Beautification of 69th Street was done by BRA committee for example

III. UPDATE FROM NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE OFFICERS (SGT GARCIA, OFCS MILAN AND VARGAS)

- Only incident since last meeting were three vehicles vandalized at 701 NE 70th, appears to have been a targeted incident, “inside deal” on constructions workers at the house
- Noted that there will be additional traffic and tourists with FIFA coming in June and July
- Cannot get the temporary digital speed sign yet, only one for the North District and it is moved from area to area, not yet our turn to have it back
- Sgt does not know the cost of buying one
- Officers will try to patrol during time periods where speeding is highest
- Board members noted and expressed appreciation for all the occasions they have seen officers posted in neighborhood and patrolling especially near the park at night

IV. GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS

- Minutes from March 18th, 2026 unanimously approved
- Treasury Report:
 - **BEGINNING BALANCE APRIL: \$7293.20**

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■ Deductions:

- Print Giants (signage for wellness event at park) \$117.68
- WIX recurring monthly service \$24
- Print Giants (postcards) \$226.31
- **ENDING BALANCE: \$6925.21**

V. SOCIAL MEDIA AND FUTURE EVENTS UPDATE (SECRETARY SONIA DESAI)

- Announced that the community now has an Instagram and Facebook where we want people to participate by providing contributions to post
 - Approximately 50 people have joined so far
- Membership Initiative Idea
 - This is a work in progress
 - Secretary has contacted a number of neighborhood restaurants in an effort to obtain discounts for the community; so far a number of restaurants have agreed to provide discounts once the program is up and running
 - These discounts would be available to card-carrying, dues-paying BRA Members
 - Mock up of membership card presented which would include the year that it is valid along with QR code which would link to list of restaurants and particular discounts
- “Thirsty Third Thursdays”
 - Would like to have a Happy Hour BRA event every third Thursday of the month at one of the participating restaurants, hopefully ones that are walking distance from all of us
- General goal for the future is to increase membership so that we have more money to complete neighborhood projects and more people involved in community initiatives and events

VI. BRA BOARD RESIGNATIONS AND ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT

- Long time BRA President Will Arthur resigned from Board after selling his condo; he is off to a new life in Broward County!
- Nomination and confirmation of new BRA President, James Sanderson
- Social Chair Allison Head (absent) moving to Belle Meade and therefore resigning her position on the board
 - July 4th party is coming up so anyone who can take over as social chair and plan the event would be helpful
 - Andres Collazo may be someone who could help
- **Not addressed during meeting, but Allison Greenfield previously resigned from Board

VII. COMMITTEE UPDATE FROM HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE (SHANE GRABER)

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- Committee and BRA are here to help navigate the historic system for neighbors so that appropriate improvements can be made
- In the future, will be able to provide letters of support for those neighbors who are implementing proper projects so that these improvements can get pushed through faster
- Shane created a pamphlet with guidelines for new construction and how to interpret the various historic styles, this is going through edits and will be available soon
- There is a new construction home on NE 70th which looks like a box so recommendations have been made to that builder
- Attempting to avoid more homes being built like the two on NE 70th that people do not like and which were approved by a board member who no longer lives in the neighborhood
- Houses cannot just be torn down; however, there are certain homes which flood to such an extent that they are unlivable and do have to come down and be fully rebuilt, we do have to be practical
- Committee will be proactive with future improvements and builds, the goal is “anything built here in 50 years should be worth fighting to preserve”

Meeting adjourned at **8:48 PM**

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