

## BAYSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (BRA)

NE 60<sup>th</sup> St. to NE 72<sup>nd</sup> St., Biscayne Blvd. to Biscayne Bay, Miami, FL 33138

### BRA BOARD MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, May 21, 2025 7:00 – 8:30p Legion Park Community Center

**Present:** Will Arthur, Mariella Lopez De Albear, Janna McConnell, Don Bell, Andres Osorio, James Sanderson (via phone) Allison Head, Allison Greenfield and Ana Miranda

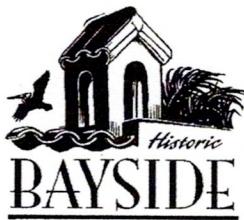
**Absent:** Brandon Beretta Paris, Andrew Piana and Carlos Guzman

#### AGENDA

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2025 BRA Board Meeting & Revision to Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2025 – Janna (2 mins)
- Treasurer Report – Will (5 mins)
- Crime Report, Speed and No Parking Enforcement on NE 69<sup>th</sup> Street – Upper East Side Commander Baker and Officer Lainez & Crime Prevention Specialist Rosa Fernander (5 mins)
- District 5 City Commissioner (King) Update – Diego Lazcano & Erica Taylor (10 mins)
- District 3 County Commissioner (Hardemon) Update – Marcus Barfield (10 mins)
- Discussions
  - Address Questions on FPL Reliability/Storm Secure Underground Program – Will (5 mins)
  - Traffic Calming Measures on NE 69<sup>th</sup> Street – Will (5 mins)
  - Alternate Street Sweeping on NE 61<sup>st</sup>, 62<sup>nd</sup>, 63<sup>rd</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup> & 69<sup>th</sup> Streets – Will (5 mins)
  - Status of City Public Works Project on Cleaning & Desilting Deep Wells in Historic Bayside – James (5 mins)
- Resolutions
  - BRA Board Member Management – Will (5 mins)
  - Approve Projects in BRA Member Value Proposition – Will (5 mins)
- Committee Updates/Confirm Committee Members (30 mins)
  - Welcoming/Membership (Chair: Janna McConnell)
  - GreenSpaces (Co-Chairs: James Sanderson & Allison Greenfield)
  - Resiliency (Chair: Ana Miranda)
  - Architecture & Historic (Chair: Mariella Lopez De Albear)
  - Neighborhood Crime/Traffic Watch (Chair: Andres Osorio)
  - Social (Chair: Allison Head)
- Other Business (3 mins)
  - BRAMiami emails for Exec Board members
  - BRAMiami website – Board feedback reminder

#### 2025 BOARD

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## MINUTES

*Meeting commenced at 7:10p*

### Welcome

Will gave a warm welcome to Commissioner King, her aides (Diego Lazcano & Erica Taylor), Marcus Barfield from Commissioner Hardemon's office, Commander Baker, Neighborhood Resource Officer Lainez and Crime Specialist Rosa Fernander and 10+ Bayside neighbors in attendance.

### Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from February 19 and March 19 Organizational Board Meeting

The revised minutes from February 19<sup>th</sup> (changes to our tax status) and the minutes from March 19<sup>th</sup> were unanimously approved.

### Treasurer Report (submitted via email by Brandon)

MARCH Beginning Balance \$10,248.20

+	80.00	Dues
-	24.00	WIX monthly fee
-	210.00	Business Emails (@bramiami.com)

Ending Balance \$10,005.33

APRIL - 24.00 WIX monthly fee

Ending Balance \$9,981.33

MAY (as of 5/21) - 24.00 WIX monthly fee

-	290.58	Neighborhood Crime Watch Doorhangers
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Ending Balance \$9,666.75

### Crime Report

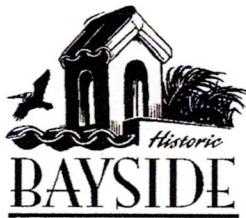
Officer Lainez reported a car break in on NE 71st Street. Tools were taken and fingerprints are being checked. There has been a slight uptick in crime in the Upper East Side in general. Commander Baker requested that anyone victimized by or witnessing a crime call 911 to report it, and homeowners should check their security systems more frequently to make sure it is functioning properly. Many are just posting incidences of petty theft in our WhatsAp community chat group, but our police team needs these crimes to be reported with specific information to better serve the community.

### *Parking Enforcement at 69<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance*

The Miami Parking Authority (MPA) has been helping with parking on NE 69th St, but signs are being illegally removed, and others are not observing them. Delivery trucks delivering to UPS and FEDEX stores, as well as local businesses are still illegally parking at the entrance of NE 69th Street on both the north and south sides of the streets in the "No Parking" zones because these delivery drivers claim they have no other place to park on Biscayne Blvd to load and unload. Commander Baker and Officer Lainez confirmed that they have spoken to the owners/managers to both the UPS and FEDEX stores and pointed out that even when

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these owners/managers impress upon these delivery drivers to not park in those “No Parking” entrance zone, they do not have jurisdiction over individual drivers for enforcement teeth. Since they cannot monitor these “No Parking” zones 24/7, Commander Baker urged Bayside residents to call/text the non-emergency police line (305-579-6111) when any vehicle is illegally parked blocking incoming or outgoing traffic.

### District 5 City Commissioner Update (Chairwoman King with aides Erica Taylor and Diego Lazcano)

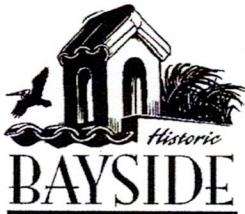
- **Traffic Circulation Issues on Biscayne** - Chairwoman King announced that she had a private meeting with Cushman School per Will’s request to elicit movement on a request from BRA and other Upper East Side Associations to reroute their parents from dropping off/picking up their kids by coming onto Biscayne at 61<sup>st</sup> which severely disrupts traffic flow by blocking a whole lane of traffic during commuter hours. Chairwoman King informed BRA that Cushman will be conducting a traffic study over the next two weeks to formulate a plan for drop-off and pick-up that should hopefully relieve congestion on Biscayne Blvd. Once this traffic circulation issue is resolved with Cushman, Will mentioned that the other traffic circulation issue next on the list to resolve on Biscayne that is making traffic unbearable, particularly southbound during the morning community is the Starbuck’s drive through on NE 64<sup>th</sup> Street. Will pointed out that this issue will be even more pronounced when MiMo Bay Development begins to break ground so that is why it must be addressed as soon as possible.
- **Request for Permanent Solar-Powered Digital Speed & Slow Down-Children At Play Signs on NE 69<sup>th</sup> St** - Since the temporary digital speed sign has had some success in slowing vehicles on NE 69<sup>th</sup> St, the Board requested that the City look into several permanent solar-powered signs along NE 69<sup>th</sup> Street with a Slow Down-Children At Play sign as cars are approaching Baywood Park.



- **Uneven Enforcement of Historic Guidelines** - Concerns were raised by some residents and BRA Board members that while some large, out-of-scale additions to historic homes have been approved

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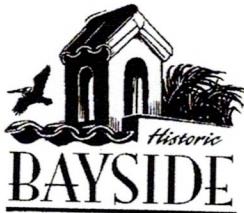
expeditely without issue trying to acquire the permits, for example, to replace impact windows could take an eternity. It was suggested that historic compliance policies, guidelines, procedures and enforcement be reexamined in totality to protect our historic neighborhoods while also streamlining onerous processes.

- ***Tree Ordinance*** – Chairwoman King announced that this controversial ordinance, which aimed to streamline the permitting process for tree removal and trimming has been withdrawn. The unpopular ordinance introduced by Commissioner Gabela and backed by the Latin American Builders Association (President: Melissa Tapanes Llahues, Esq) was withdrawn after facing delays and opposition from environmental activists concerned about its potential impact on the city already lacking tree canopy. King said that there will be talks scheduled with the community to determine what is wanted and needed so that new legislation can be introduced later down the road. Plus, she noted that the City is working on reforming the permitting process.
- ***Baywood Seawall*** – Chairwoman King announced that the replacement/repair of the seawall is still in discussion and a community meeting will be held to report findings. Regarding the funding for this project, King mentioned that District 5 has the most parks in the City of Miami so when divvying out park budgets, she is pushing to gain a bigger percentage of the total Parks' budget. Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) is typically a good funding source for coastal projects as long as those projects provide public access to the bay. Since we are not looking to have Baywood Park provide public access to the bay, King thinks that this funding source is more than likely off the table. Will suggested the City force impact fees on The Prescott Development. King made it clear that the current owner/developer of the Prescott property is still under litigation with Bayside residents so to not expect much cooperation from them.
- Concerns were raised regarding these other miscellaneous issues:
  - illegal dumping in swales, end-of-street closures and empty lots in Historic Bayside
  - sting rays caught and killed - Fish and Wildlife were notified. Chairwoman King announced that two marine patrol boats have been added to the force.
  - fishing from the Baywood Park seawall and feeding of ducks on 64th (BRA Board requested that the City post signage prohibiting these activities in Baywood Park and at the end of NE 64<sup>th</sup> Street before enforcement)
  - illicit water taxis loading and unloading from City Parks (e.g., Baywood Park)
- ***MiMo Bay Development/Adela 2*** - Meetings with principles of the Adela II project are ongoing. Eight members of the Urban Development Review Board (UDRB) recently reviewed project and recommended that the project be scaled back. BRA Board expressed enormous concern over the additional burden this community will have on Biscayne Blvd without the proper infrastructure and alternative transportation to support it, particularly considering the fact that three major high-density communities with ~2000 total residents (Nirvana, Adela, & new MiMo Bay Dev) will all be using NE 64<sup>th</sup> Street to get onto Biscayne going South towards downtown with traffic congestion issues already caused by Cushman and Starbucks... adding this new high-density development to the mix is a recipe for disaster
- ***Constituent Tuesday*** - Chairwoman King announced that she holds "open house" with no appointment necessary in various locations on the first Tuesday of the month to meet one-on-one with constituents.

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### District 3 County Commissioner Update (Commissioner Hardemon)

Marcus Barfield, District Coordinator from Commissioner Hardemon's District 3 office was present.

- **Light Synchronization** – Many regard the synchronization of traffic lights on Biscayne Blvd from NE 61st Street to NE 82nd Street, to be the biggest contributing factor to the congestion on Biscayne Blvd on the Upper East Side, particularly during commute times. Marcus mentioned that Stacy Miller (DTPW Director/formerly the District 6 Secretary of FDOT) and Josiel Ferrer-Diaz (DTPW Deputy Director) will have a team conduct an assessment. Frank Aira (Chief of Traffic Signals and Signs) will also work with them on this issue, as well as perhaps help us to secure permanent, solar-powered digital speed signs on NE 69<sup>th</sup> Street. An automated synchronization contractor was hired, but there were contract problems forcing the county to find a new contractor. The community feels that with all the new developments on the Northern Biscayne Corridor in the pipeline, fixing this issue NOW is paramount since we are already in a gridlock situation during commute times... any additional traffic burden on this corridor will only add insult to injury.
- **Upgraded Pump Station on NE 71<sup>st</sup> Street** - Water and Sewer (WASD) completed the pump station on 71st Street. However, since the City just recently removed some of the new plantings by accident, BRA requested quarterly checks on the landscaping to make sure all is OK and to replace/replenish any plants, if necessary.
- **Parking to Support Local Businesses on Biscayne in the MiMo Biscayne Blvd Historic District** – two tours of Biscayne Blvd were conducted with Commissioner King's staff (Diego & Erica) in Q2 2025 to identify potential parking opportunities to support local businesses (e.g., potential parking pod locations for employees & patrons and potential loading/unloading zones for deliveries from suppliers within the district)

### Discussions

No time permitted for discussions on:

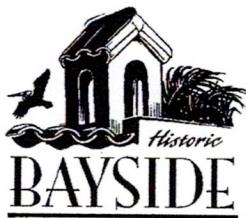
- FPL Reliability/Storm Secure Underground Program
- Status of City Public Works Project on Cleaning & Desilting Deep Wells in Historic Bayside
- Alternate Street Sweeping on NE 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th & 69th Streets (however, we did confirm at meeting that street sweeping can only be done on streets with curbs (so not on 70th, 71st, or 72nd)

### Resolutions

- **BRA Board Member Management** – the Board unanimously voted to remove Andrew Piana as a Director since he has not attended any meetings in 2025, and after repeated attempts to contact him, he has not responded. It was suggested that Carlos be a liaison with the other neighborhood group (HBCA) to facilitate working together on items of mutual interest. Janna or Will will reach out to Carlos to see if interested or to see if he is still interested on being on the BRA Board since he has not attended any meetings so far this year (physically or remotely).
- **Approve Projects in BRA Member Value Proposition** – the Board unanimously approved a budget up to \$2000 for 10 more meeting signs and “Slow Down/Children At Play” signs (plastic child figures like below) for Historic Bayside residents between NE 69<sup>th</sup> and NE 72<sup>nd</sup> Streets to put in their front yards

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alongside the road. Will requested Andres as the Chair of our Neighborhood Traffic/Crime Watch Committee help determine how many of these signs we should purchase by pulling together list of residents with kids who will commit to placing them in their yards. Also need to discuss how can we BRA brand these signs.



### Committee Updates

No time permitted

### Other Business

- BRAmiami emails for Exec Board members – we are paying monthly Google Workspace fees so exec team needs to start using their [@bramiami.com](mailto:@bramiami.com) emails (Mariella & Janna needs to activate/set up their emails.)
- BRAmiami website – need Board to provide feedback. Except for the additions I provided to the historical lore of Bayside, no one has provided detailed comments on Bobby's first iteration to our website
- Storm water drains - have been vacuumed to clear them ahead of prospective storms. Some curbs and sidewalks along NE 69th Street have been upgraded to help with flooding issues. Some may be redeveloped, but this is a major undertaking, as they can be 200 feet deep.

***Meeting adjourned at 8:45p***

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 @ 7:00p at Legion Park Community Center**

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