



VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK
Village Commission Agenda Report
REGULAR MEETING

Item # 5.a

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Biscayne Park Village Commission
FROM: MacDonald Kennedy, Vice Mayor
DATE: October 6, 2020
TITLE: Volunteer Presentations

Background

Biscayne Park boasts a tradition of volunteerism that builds a strong community of neighbors and moves the village towards goals that make us a preferred South Florida municipality. From advisory boards to special committees to grassroots efforts, residents are our greatest asset and deserve the heartfelt thanks of the commission on a daily basis but particularly when they engage “above and beyond.” Tonight, we share our gratitude with these boards and residents who accomplished these significant achievements in recent months.

But first, a “high five” to our five boards that perform at a high level for us on a regular basis. We welcome applicants to all boards and encourage new residents to lend their expertise as a way to engage in their new community.

The Biscayne Park Foundation
Public Art Advisory Board
Code Compliance Board
Planning & Zoning Board
Parks & Parkway Advisory Board

Presentation

Special thanks to these boards and residents for exceptional contributions to our community in recent months. Because we are meeting virtually, certificates will be mailed to the homes of these residents after they are signed by the full commission.

Parks & Parkway Advisory Board

In recent months, the six members of P&P have knocked it out of the park, no pun intended. First, they qualified the village for a 2020 tree grant and coordinated the placement of those 60 new trees in September. Immediately afterward, they submitted a proposal for 60 more trees through a 2021 county grant, which they hope to get in the ground next Spring. Those grants will save the village more than \$25,000 while generations of village residents enjoy the benefits of those trees in the growing canopy

of our bird sanctuary. Additionally, Parks & Parkways now serves as the judge for our quarterly Oasis Awards, which we also present this evening. Congratulations and thanks to P&P board chair **Barbara Kuhl** and members **Lynn Fischer, Audra McCollum, Michael Rawson, David Raymond, and Randy Wagoner.**

Resident Selection Committee for Village Manager

As part of the formal selection process for our key administrative position, the village commission appointed a group of residents to vet applicants and move a preferred list of the most qualified applicants to the commission for consideration. This resident committee completed its critical task two weeks ahead of schedule and delivered quality results. Congratulations and thanks to this team of committed residents: Chair **Gary Kuhl** and members **William Abreu, Linda Dillon, Art Gonzalez, Jill Grucan, Judi Hamelburg, Gage Hartung, Milton Hunter, Fred Jonas, Dan Keys, Jorge Marinoni, Amy Raymond, and Sandor Scher.**

Biscayne Park Plant Swap

Village gardening aficionado **Dan Keys** found a photo of a community plant swap on social media and shared it with the Parks & Parkways Advisory Board, which endorsed the idea for the village. A commissioner quickly solicited the help of village artist and furniture designer **Dan Schneiger** to build and donate the stand. Within a few short weeks, the Biscayne Park Plant Swap was placed at the Rec Center entrance and quickly became the go-to meeting place for village gardening lovers to share plants and gardening tips. Many thanks to both Dans for the perfect idea and for a fast and flawless execution. The commission encourages all residents to participate in the plant swap and to make new gardening friends at the Rec Center.

Village Hall Volunteer

Village resident **Linda Dillon** has served this community in a variety of ways for many years, including as a member of the quasi-judicial Code Compliance Board. For the past several months while village hall was short-staffed, Linda resumed her former volunteer administrative position there in support of all departments and serving as Interim Manager Roseann Prado's (free) and unofficial right hand while positions were being filled. Linda's tireless work at village hall has gotten us over an unexpected hump, and for her volunteer efforts this village and commission share our sincere gratitude.

Attachment(s)

Presentations for each person/board
Plant Swap photo with designer/builder Dan Schneiger

Prepared/Sponsored by: MacDonald Kennedy, Vice Mayor