



## **MINUTES**

**Regular Commission Meeting  
Log Cabin - 640 NE 114th Street  
Biscayne Park, FL 33161  
Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7:00pm**

**1 Call to Order**

Mayor Tracy Truppman called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

**2 Roll Call**

Mayor Tracy Truppman - present  
Vice Mayor David Coviello - present  
Commissioner Jenny Johnson-Sardella - present  
Commissioner Roxanna Ross - present  
Commissioner William Tudor - present

Present from staff were:

Interim Village Manager Maria C. Camara  
Village Clerk Marlen D. Martell  
Village Attorney John Hearn  
Interim Police Chief Nicholas Wollschlager  
Public Works Manager Mario Matos

**3 Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Truppman announced that Village Manager Sharon Ragoonan had met with her earlier and resigned her position as Village Manager.

**4 Presentations**

4.a Recognition of Vice Mayor David Coviello - A plaque was presented to Vice Mayor Coviello for his years of service.

4.b. 2014-15 CAFR (Audit) Update - Pablo Llerena, GLSC & Co.

Mr. Llerena was present to update the Mayor and Commission on the status of the 2014-15 CAFR. He was confident the audit would be completed within the deadline. He would continue to keep staff updated and work with staff to provide documents needed to complete the audit process.

Diana Gonzalez was introduced and the village will utilize her services to complete the 2014-15 audit.

Attorney Hearn read Resolution 2017-13.

### **Resolution 2017-3**

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA RELATING TO CONTRACTS; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES BETWEEN THE VILLAGE AND THE CONSULTING GROUP OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC.; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to approve Resolution 2017-13 and it is seconded by Commissioner Tudor.

All in favor: Mayor Truppman, Vice Mayor Coviello, Commissioner Johnson-Sardella, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Tudor.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 5/0

## **5 Additions, Deletions or Withdrawals to the Agenda**

- 12.d Commission Ross - requested waiver of fees for meet the candidates forum sponsored by Fred Jones
- 12.e Commissioner Ross - discussion of legislative session
- 12. f Commissioner Ross - Community Strategic Planning
- 12.a Mayor Truppman - requested to delete 12.a Village Manager Evaluation

## **6 Public Comments Related to Agenda Items / Good & Welfare**

Fred Jonas: Comments made not in support of the Mayor.

Mac Kennedy: Stated Vice Mayor David Coviello will be missed. He was not in support of the Mayor.

Judi Hamelburg: Welcomed the new Village Clerk. Unfortunate situation with the resignation of the Village Manager, but it has happened in the past and it was not fair to place all blame on the new commission. Need to seek a new manager with experience that can assist with the audit process. This is a small town to have so much animosity. We are family.

Dan Schneiger: He would also miss the Vice Mayor. Sadden by the current events leading to the resignation of the Village Manager. Does not have confidence in the Mayor and felt the Village Manager was treated unfairly.

Tainna Shepard: Shocked with the Village Manager's decision because in the past she had requested a number of public records request related to the communication between the elected officials and the Manager. The number of emails from the Manager to the commission were much greater than those received by the commission. Concerned about the stability of the Village and asked the residents to also follow up on public records request. Commented on her driveway variance and condescending comments made by Fred Jonas.

David Raymond: Requesting to know what had happened. Will pray for those people elected to serve the public. The commission needed to listen to the residents and provide transparency. There is a lot of tension. Had been on the selection committee for the Manager and wanted the commission to explain the transition of the position of Village Manager. Residents in the community were not happy with the current law enforcement department.

Dan Keys: Not in favor of driveway discussion item 12c.

Chuck Ross: In support of the Village Manager and was disappointed that she would not be evaluated and would like to know what happened.

Gary Kuhl: Would like to see more civility. In support of the Mayor because he felt the Village Manager was accountable for issues concerning the Village and he also understood it was in conjunction with the inadequacies of the former Village Manager. He was also concerned about the administrative citation process and felt the Code Compliance staff had not been properly trained by the Village Manager.

Noah Jacobs: Felt the Village Manager was unresponsive to his emails. Also stated the Village was not staffed correctly. It was the Mayor and Commissioner's decision to determine if to retain or release the Village Manager of her position.

Michelle Peters: Commented on the driveway discussion and felt the majority of the public were not in support of the discussion that took place in November 2016. In favor of future workshops to discuss the topic.

Barbara Kuhl: Not everyone on same page. Many are upset with Code and Police and the audit that has not been completed. Concerned about possible sanctions imposed by the late submission of the audit. Glad to see the community asking the hard questions. In support of the new commission and wanted to know why the Village Manager was not aware of the deadlines related to the audit. Would like to limit the rudeness.

Linda Dillon: Would have liked to have retained the Village Manager for an additional 3 months, but disappointed it would not be happening. Has been a resident for 39 years and has seen the pendulum like behavior and now the only difference is that the names have changed.

Howard Goldman: Disappointed that the evaluation did not take place to determine the reason to retain or fire the Manager. Felt there was a lot of passion in the room and that the constituents needed to become unified.

Max Deitermann: Biscayne Park is a great place to live, but when there is a problem, the community turns on each other. Manager Ragoonan did not inherit a wonderful situation. This is how she makes living and being berated and suspended would hurt future chances of employment. There was no need to continue blaming the commission because they had been elected by a large number of residents.

Barbara Watts: This was an emotional time and commend the commission for their strength and needed oversight due to fiscal situation. A solid professional should have known the deadlines of the audit. The choice of Manager was a mistake and hopes the new commission will select a better candidate.

Gabriela Ortega: Lives near train tracks and has had a number of warnings issued to her by the Code Compliance Department which helped her to learn the rules. The area improved from 2009-2012, but recently the area is deteriorating. There are cars parked that don't move and debris on surrounding properties. Would like to see Code Enforcement improvements and crime reduction.

Matt Kaminsky: Would like to know why does it seem that the entire commission is not aware of the Manager's resignation. Within the last months had not heard any negative comments about the Manager. Felt nothing was happening in the Village and the commission was not qualified to run the Village.

Christina McKenzie: No one is ever completely right and instead of blaming, bring forth ideas. The community looks to the commission as the model and everyone needs to work together.

**7 Information / Updates - NONE**

*Meeting recessed at 8:54pm and resumed at 9:02pm*

**8 Consent Agenda**

**8.a Acceptance of Board Minutes**

- ^ Biscayne Park Foundation - December 6, 2016
- ^ Biscayne Park Foundation - January 9, 2017
- ^ Planning & Zoning Board - February 6, 2017
- ^ Planning & Zoning Board - February 21, 2017
- ^ Resident Review Committee - February 13, 2017

**8.b Resolution 2017-09**

A RESOLUTION OF THE OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, **COMMENDING THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF CITY CLERKS FOR ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY**; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to accept the consent agenda and it is seconded by Commissioner Tudor.

All in favor: Mayor Truppman, Vice Mayor Coviello, Commissioner Johnson-Sardella, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Tudor.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 5/0

**9 Ordinances - NONE**

**10 Resolutions**

**10.a Resolution 2017-10**

RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, **RATIFYING THE SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS TO THE PARKS & PARKWAY ADVISORY BOARD**; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney Hearn read the title.

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to appoint those that applied and to approve Resolution 2017-10 and it is seconded by Commissioner Johnson-Sardella

All in favor: Mayor Truppman, Vice Mayor Coviello, Commissioner Johnson-Sardella, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Tudor.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 5/0

**10.b Resolution 2017-11**

RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, **RATIFYING THE SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ART ADVISORY BOARD**; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney Hearn read the title.

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to appoint those that applied and to accept Resolution 2017-11 and it is seconded by Commissioner Johnson-Sardella

All in favor: Mayor Truppman, Vice Mayor Coviello, Commissioner Johnson-Sardella, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Tudor.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 5/0

**10.c Resolution 2017-12**

RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, **RATIFYING THE SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS TO THE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney Hearn read the title.

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to suspend the Recreation Advisory Board until community interest is generated and it is seconded by Commissioner Johnson-Sardella

All in favor: Mayor Truppman, Vice Mayor Coviello, Commissioner Johnson-Sardella, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Tudor.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 5/0

**11 Old Business**

Code Review Board - Zoning review and proposed language regarding  
11.a landscaping for new builds (*first presented at June 7th. Deferred from the January 10, 2017 meeting.*) - As requested by Commissioner Ross

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to direct the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance for review at the next commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner Johnson-Sardella.

All in favor: Mayor Truppman, Vice Mayor Coviello, Commissioner Johnson-Sardella, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Tudor.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 5/0

Clerk Camara asked the Commission to discuss and provide direction on the status of the open Village Manager position, and not wait to schedule another meeting.

After discussion, the Commission appointed Clerk Camara to be the Interim Village Manager up until her retirement on March 31, 2017.

There was Commission consensus on the following points as requested by Interim Manager Camara

1. All Board meetings, except for Planning & Zoning and Code Compliance, would be cancelled for March, April and May.
2. With no Parks & Recreation Manager, the annual Spring Egg event would be cancelled.
3. All questions related to the CAFR/audit will be directed through the Interim Village Manager.
4. The priorities of the Commission are the completion of the CAFR, and the continued recruitment and hiring of police officers, full time and reserves.
5. The hiring of the Police Chief is on hold. Interim Chief Wollschlager was asked to continue as Interim Chief for an additional three (3) months. The terms of his agreement would be discussed at the next meeting.
6. The part time administrative clerk position would be filled through a temporary agency until a permanent hire is made.
7. The Landlord Permit notifications to property owners would be put on hold, as well as the Landlord Permit Workshop.
8. The PAMM event on March 18th would continue as planned as it is primarily being coordinated by volunteers.
9. A Special Commission meeting would be scheduled on Friday, March 10, 2017 at 6:30pm to discuss the process to hire a Village Manager. The Commission asked for the position posting and search methodology that was used in April 2016.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Coviello that the salary for Interim Manager Camara would be the same from May 2016, and to draft and adopt a resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson-Sardella.

All in favor: Mayor Truppman, Vice Mayor Coviello, Commissioner Johnson-Sardella, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Tudor.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 5/0

- 11.b Establishing a Public Safety Advisory Board - As requested by Commissioner Tudor *(Deferred for continued discussion from the February 8th meeting.)*

Item was forwarded to next month.

- 11.c Establishing a Grant Writing Advisory Board - As requested by Commissioner Tudor *(Deferred for continued discussion from the February 8th meeting.)*

Item was forwarded to next month.

## **12 New Business**

- 12.b Attorney General Opinion/Sunshine law as it relates to e-mails being sent by elected officials that copy the rest of the Commission - As requested by Commissioner Ross

After discussion, no action was taken.

- 12.c Discussion on driveways - As requested by Commissioner Ross

Item was forwarded to next month.

- 12.d Meet and Greet Candidates Forum requested by Fred Jones

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to waive fees for the use of the log cabin for the Meet the Candidates event, seconded by Commissioner Johnson-Sardella.

All in favor: Mayor Truppmann, Vice Mayor Coviello, Commissioner Johnson-Sardella, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Tudor.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 5/0

- 12.e Legislative Session Discussion

Legislative session started on March 7, 2017. Commissioner Ross provided information to the Florida League of Cities. Poll commission to see who could go to Tallahassee, if needed. Mayor stated she would be available.

- 12.f Strategic Planning - Commissioner Ross

To be discussed at the March 10th Special Commission meeting.

## **13 Request for placement of items on next meeting agenda**

**None**

**14 Reports**

14.a Village Manager - NONE

14.b Village Attorney - Will be attending a meeting in North Miami to discuss water issues with Interim Village Manager.

14.c Board / Committee Reports: NONE

14.d Commissioner Comments:

Mayor Truppmann appreciated all comments and efforts of the staff. Hoped residents will be well.

**15 Announcements**

Monday, March 20th - Planning & Zoning Board at 6:30pm

Tuesday, March 28th - SPECIAL ELECTION from 7:00am - 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 28th - Miami Shores Chamber Mixer from 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Monday, April 3rd - Planning & Zoning at 6:30pm

Our next regular Commission meeting is Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at 7:00pm

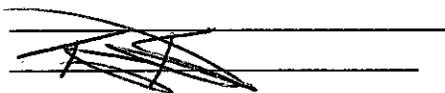
**16 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39pm

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Commission approved on April 4, 2017.

Attest:



Tracy Truppmann, Mayor



Marlen Martell, Village Clerk