



PLANTATION ACRES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 450718, Sunrise, FL 33345-0718
president@pahaf1.org Fax: 954-945-5284 www.pahaf1.org

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2022

7:00 PM – Virtual Zoom

Board Members

Present:

Jennifer Fain (Acting President)
Donna McCormack (President)
Garry Kravit
Michael Roth
Ed (Doc) Szerlip
Jesse Varnell

Heather Seaman (Volunteer Scribe)

Absent:

Richard Gendler
Adam Fractenberg
Mark Cameron
Seth Varnell

Total in Attendance - 21

Welcome/ Meeting Call to Order - 7:05 PM Jenn Fain

Pledge of Allegiance - Ed (Doc) Szerlip

Approval of May 21 Meeting Minutes - No Objections – Unanimous

Opening Comments: - Jenn Fain

- Deputy Chief of the Fire Department, Joel Gordon will be talking about the Community Emergency Response team (CERT) and the process they go through during an emergency.
- Lia Schwartz will be updating us on Saving Sage and their wonderful rescues.
- Jenn mentioned how the city is seeing Plantation Acres in a different and better light, that we are getting things done, and it is important for Plantation Acres residents and Homeowners Association to keep going.

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Guest Speaker – (Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) - Joel Gordon Deputy Chief of the Plantation Fire Department and Co-Ordinator of the CERT Team.

- Joel introduced Hank Van Baalen as a member of CERT and the Logistics Officer who plays with all the equipment.
- The concept behind CERT nationwide: It is a program of FEMA and the purpose is to train the public on how to handle critical emergencies within their community. Citizens are trained on basics of CPR, first aid, afib, simple fire extinguisher use, search and rescue, and all elements needed to take care of neighbors after a crisis. (For example, to be able to help citizens within the first 72 hours after a hurricane until the fire department and professional help can get there).
- Plantation has taken this concept a step further and formed CERT teams who are under the auspices of the Fire Department. These are citizens who go through training and are prepared to respond to emergencies within the city as well as help support the city through special events. They assist also with firefighter rehab and work with the Police Department to learn about traffic control.
- CERT in Plantation has been in service for 2 years. There are 15 people on the roster with both basic and advanced training.
- Hank Van Baalen spoke on how rewarding CERT was for him, and how it is a good way to serve and give back to the community.
- The meetings are every two weeks, 2nd Thursday is administration, and 4th Thursday is training. All equipment is free.
- There are no restrictions, as there are both field jobs and desk jobs. They do a background check on applicants.
- Residents that are interested can either reach out to Joel at his office JGordon@psd.plantation.org or apply online at: <https://www.plantation.org/home/showpublisheddocument/4988/637817423821670000>
- There will be a training class sometime in August and there is still plenty of room in the class if residents are interested in getting involved.

Updates on Meetings in Plantation

Plantation City Council Meeting (May 25) – Garry Kravit

- There were no Plantation Acres Related Items.

PAID Meeting (May 26) – Garry Kravit

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This meeting was cancelled – No quorum.

North Acres Park Site Visit with the Mayor – Teresa Smith

- On May 31 there was a site visit to North Acres Park. Present were Mayor Stoner, Jason Nunemaker (CAO for the City), Samira Shalan (Civil Engineer), Steve Rodgers (Director of Facilities), Nick Sortal, as well as about 6 neighbors.
- The meeting was very productive and certain items were firmed up.
 - There will be a 5ft. black latex chain-link fence around the perimeter.
 - The existing pond will be filled in but a new larger pond will be added to help with water mitigation. It will have an aerator which will not discourage wild life, and the pond will be landscaped to promote habitat for birds and wild life.
 - There will be 2 shelters.
 - The parking lot will be expanded and re-paved.
 - Most non-native trees will be removed and native trees will be used for landscaping.
 - There will be an 8ft. wide meandering concrete path across the park which is ADA compliant.
 - There will be park benches.
 - The playground will be expanded with a shade tarp over the equipment.
 - Only sections of the park will be graded.
 - Outdoor equipment is questionable due to the limited budget.
- Next steps: The Civil Engineer will make scale drawings of everything that was discussed and it will be presented to the residents for approval. After final drawings are made and approved the project will go before City Council for a vote. Projected start date is December, 2022. The project will be completed in-house.
- There were questions about the impact of the economy and the promise of \$500,000. The City said would abide by the \$500,000 for the property in addition to extra money for landscaping and possibly new grant money.
- Michael Roth questioned why we needed the 5 ft chain link fence, it is still under discussion by the City of Plantation.
- Doc Szerlip said there was additional \$17,000 allocated but no written documentation with that figure has been presented to us to date.

Planning and Zoning Meeting (June 7) – Garry Kravit

- There were no Plantation Acres Related items.

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Plantation City Council Meeting (June 8)– Heather Seaman

- Marty Kiar from the Broward County Property Appraisers (BCPA()) office spoke on taxes and different opportunities residents might have to reduce their property taxes. He said property scams and fraud are steadily increasing.
- There is an app on bcpa.net website where you can sign up, offering a free service to help protect your property from scams and fraud by notifying you if a document is received by BCPA changing ownership of your property.
- There was a request to approve Publix at the old Barnes and Noble building at 591 S. University Drive. There was a robust discussion on whether to deny or table it. Jennifer Andreu led the motion to table and that was their final decision.
- There was a request for conditional use approval for CHEN MED AT 27 N. State Rd. It was unanimously approved by all Council members.
- Ginger Baker expressed concern over residents in Plantation Acres leaving storm shutters up long after a hurricane. It is a county ordinance but the City is going to look into it.
- Jenn Fain expressed thanks to City Council for supporting Plantation Acres.

Updates on PAHA Committees

Awareness – Jenn Fain

- No updates.

Neighborhood Watch – Michael Roth

- Crime and Traffic Report – (May 13 – June 9):
 - There were arrests made for mail thefts in the Acres. The police are still working on attempting to confirm case by case how many of these cases arrested people are responsible for, so they can close cases and charge these criminals with as much as possible.
There was one residential burglary and the suspect is a family member.
 - There were four vehicle burglaries. Three vehicles were unlocked, and one was questionable as there was no sign of forced entry.
 - There were 11 speeding citations in the North Acres and 1 in the South Acres.
- If you need extra police protection on your home you may call the police and they will do an extra watch on your home.

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- Concern was brought up of sex offender living in Plantation Acres. He has been arrested but not convicted, so to date he is not on the registry. This issue will be followed closely by Plantation Acres Homeowners Association (PAHA).

Community Outreach – Heather Seaman

- PAHA supports two designated charities – Saving Sage Animal Rescue and Gulfstream Early Learning Center.
- Donations of clothing, toys, housewares, linens, or donations of money can be made to Gulf Stream Early Learning Center. These can be dropped off at their location or at Donna McCormack's garage.
- Lia Schwartz will give us an update and some exciting news on Saving Sage Animal Rescue a little later in the meeting.

Social Committee – Jenn Fain

- PAHA is doing a lot of sponsoring and trying to give back to the City of Plantation. PAHA sponsored Mother's Day and Father's Day. The next event PAHA will sponsor is Back to School. You can find information on the PAHA website or the City Calendar website events calendar.

Community Service Squad - Heather Seaman.

- Community Service Squad members can continue to earn service hours by providing donations to Saving Sage Animal Rescue and Gulfstream Early Learning Center.
- Squad members will be kept updated by email or text as new opportunities to earn hours are added.

John George Scholarship - Garry Kravit

- Each year PAHA gives out a \$500 John George Scholarship to a deserving Plantation Acres student. The student must have Community Service hours in Plantation Acres. PAHA also looks at the applicants holistically, the entire product.
- This year, PAHA is pleased to announce that for next year the association will have an additional \$500 – either for two \$500 scholarships or one \$1000 scholarship because a Plantation Acres resident, Doug McIntosh has generously agreed to match the \$500 that your PAHA dues go towards giving out the scholarship.
- Additionally, if anyone would like to contribute any amount or match what PAHA puts out, contact PAHA (pahafl.org) or Garry Kravit (garry@pahafl.org) and your

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donation will be added to the scholarship fund. It will go directly if targeted to the fund.

Membership Update – Jesse Varnell

- 7 residents have paid their dues this month.
- Residents are encouraged to pay dues for this year which allows PAHA to support events in Plantation and Plantation Acres.
- PAHA is still taking donations to the Legal Fund as we still do not have a resolution to the projects we are working on yet. Donations are only used for legal aspects.

Business Spotlight – Lia Schwartz – Saving Sage Animal Rescue (lia@savingsagerescue.org)

- Lia moved from New York two months ago where she was a service dog trainer and involved in Rescue. She joined Saving Sage and currently lives in Plantation Acres.
- Saving Sage is all volunteer run, and it fills a huge gap in South Florida Rescue. Saving Sage just moved to an office space in Sunrise at the corner of Commercial Blvd. and Pine Island Rd. Visitors are welcome to stop by the new site for a tour.
- There is a fund-raising campaign in progress for the new building. One donor will match up to \$50,000. If you donate before August 1 your donation will go twice as far. There are several ways to contribute:
 - A simple donation
 - Creating a fund-raising team and get children involved with such events as a 5 K race.
 - Setting up your own fund-raising page to send to family telling them why Saving Sage is important to you and asking them to donate. Make yourself a part of PAHA team and pool all your donations.
 - Later in the fund-raising effort you can sponsor one of the sponsorship opportunities (i.e. with a \$2500 donation put a plaque on a dog kennel)
 - Donate and purchase items off the Wishlist and have Amazon and Chewy send the items directly to Saving Sage. Supplies needed now for kennels, toys, leashes and other Saving Sage supplies.
 - Volunteer on the Saving Sage website. If you are over 21 years of age you can work with the dogs. Every volunteer is assigned a shift during the week. There are also many partnerships with cat stores such as Petco, Pet Supermarket, PetSmart, and teens can volunteer to go to these stores and help maintain the animals there.

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- Additional information on how to participate can be found on savingsagerescue.org.
- Garry Kravit offered to auction one of his paintings. When they have their grand opening auction items such as his could be included in a silent auction.
- Jenn Fain will set up a fund-raising page for PAHA and send blasts out to the members of Plantation Acres.

Real Estate Corner – PJ Jacobs – Keyes (954) 478-3000

- There are 14 active properties with 7 properties active with contract.
- There are 17 closed sales and 8 pending sales.
- Feds raised interest rates and sales are slowing down and beginning to affect the market.
- The house at 1201 116th Ave. will be coming on the market July 1 for \$2.9 M.

Important Upcoming Dates – Heather Seaman

- Food trucks every Wednesday from 5:00 PM. – 9:00 PM.
- City Council Meeting tomorrow, June 22 at 6 PM.
- PAID Meeting Thursday June 23 at 7 PM.
- City Council meeting July 20 includes a Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Millage)
- This is the last PAHA meeting until September. Summer meetings are:
 - July 5, Aug. 2, Sept 6, - Planning and Zoning Meetings.
 - National Night Out is on Tuesday Aug. 2 from 5 PM. until 8 PM. at Central Park. This is an annual community building campaign hosted by Plantation Police Department, promoting police/community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and better places to live. If interested, call (954) 452-2510 for more information.
 - City Council Meetings on Aug. 10 and Aug 24 at 6 PM.
 - City Council Meetings on Sept 14 and Sept 21 will address the 1st and 2nd Public Hearing of the Proposed City Budget.

Recent Plantation Acres Break-In – Colleen McDonald

- Colleen gave an update on her recent home break-in and her concern for the rest of Plantation Acres. Saturday April 30, her home was broken into and robbed while her family was away. They had camera, alarms and security devices and none were activated.
- This incident was still being investigated and there are no suspects but they do have persons of interest.

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- The McDonalds are interested in helping to invest in safety in Plantation Acres specifically, with cameras and particularly license plate scanners for the Acres.
- They would like to pledge in funding as well as installation of cameras, if endorsement of both the city and Plantation Homeowners Association is obtained, as they have the resources with her husband being a General Contractor.
- If requested, she will provide a write-up and scope of cost and come back to the next meeting with this information. More research is needed to see if cameras would be viable, and a committee and plan will be put in place for further investigation.

New Business – General

- **Survey for Mayor's Discussion on Upcoming Election – Garry Kravit**
 - The mayor was at our last meeting and there were questions, answers and further questions. Robin Collier, a member of Plantation Acres has decided to fund a Survey Monkey to send out to PAHA members to ask a number of questions, rank what residents' priorities are, what they would like see done, and other ideas they may have.
 - Michael Roth is going to put this survey together and send it out via email to Plantation Acres residents shortly.
 - This survey can then be used as some input to future Mayoral and City Council candidates.
- **Plantation Ares Improvement District Update – Doc Szerlip**
 - Originally three members of PAID were up to be voted on, Lance Fain, Doc Szerlip, Lou Flanigan. However only Lance is running and Doc said Commissioners, Staff and Board do not know who else is running at this time.
 - A number of staff members are retiring and this will be announced at the PAID meeting on June 23.
 - There is going to be a total change in the operation and control of PAID.
- **General Plantation Election Update – Michael Roth**

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- The election is coming up in November which will affect the City of Plantation and Plantation Acres in many ways. The period to file to run is now closed.
- Please motivate your neighbors, friends, family members to register if they have not already done so.
- Plantation Acres elections are tight. In the last Mayoral race there were 170 votes between Mayor Stoner and the second-place person in a City of 100,000 people, and Plantation Acres has a lot of ability to affect a change.
- There will be a candidate's night around October, and PAHA will be inviting the candidates back to give us more information.
- Additional information on each candidate can be found on the Election page at Plantation.org.
 - In the Mayor's seat, Mayor Stoner is opposed by Nick Sortal.
 - In Group 1, Erik Anderson's opponent is Carol Ann Sword.
 - In Group 2, Denise Horland's opponent is James Frommert.
 - In Group 5, (a 2-year seat) there are three candidates: Louis Reinstein, Dylan Cole and Harold "Wayne" Clark Jr.
 - There are three new people as well as Lance Fein running for a PAID seat: Jeff Munchick, Jorge Santana and Dax Joseph Watsky.
- Two candidates running for PAID attended the Homeowner's Association meeting and spoke briefly on the issues and reasons for running.
 - Jorge Santana has lived in Plantation for 2 years. He has been Vice President of an Association in Pembroke Pines for the last 3 years, has made a difference there, and now based on that experience he feels he can make a difference by dedicating his time to PAID and Plantation Acres.
 - Jeff Munchick has lived in Plantation Acres for about 42 years. He is aware of PAID and the issues with flooding. He believes PAID should be a function of Plantation Acres and does not believe it should be turned over to the City of Plantation. He is in sales; owns his own business and says he knows how to put out fires and deal with people. He is active in South Acres, frequents the Equestrian Center, Food Trucks, and he feels he can add a voice and be an active participant in PAID.

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- Louis Reinstein is running for Plantation City Council. He grew up in Plantation and has lived for 15 years in Sunset Cove near Central Acres Park. He is a lawyer and mediator and he previously was a teacher. Garry Kravit asked if he has, or will take money from contractors or developers for his campaign. He answered that he has not yet decided not to take from any particular person or entity. Garry also asked if he was familiar with the “No Rezoning’ signs in the neighborhood and the issues behind that. He is familiar and believes Plantation has to do better in terms of over-development and development and this is one of the reasons he sits on the Parks and Recreation Board and why he helped found the Plantation Park Recreation Foundation. The first person who appointed him to Parks and Recreation was Nick Sortal and the second person was Lynn Stoner. Michael Roth asked what he feels are the biggest problems and how he would address them. He said he is a good communicator, critical thinker, present, available and responsive to the citizens. He feels the Council Members and the Mayor should be spokespersons for the city, for students, parents, and teachers to lobby the school to get better funding, to make sure bond funds were used quicker, school security increased, and schools were getting what they needed. His involvement with Parks and Recreation goes to his feelings of development and the need for controlled development.

Closing Comments – Jenn Fain

- Several Plantation Acres residents were not able to attend last month’s Plantation Acres Homeowners Association meeting with Mayor Stoner. Jenn is going to organize a Zoom replay of the Mayoral discussion and will upload it on our PAHA website.
- The Board is currently discussing and rewriting the code pertaining to animals permitted in Plantation Acres, at the request of Danny Holmes. If anyone has any comments please contact Jenn Fain at Jenn@pahaf1.org or Michael Roth at Michael@pahaf1.org.

Meeting Adjourned (9:12 PM) – Jenn Fain

Meeting minutes were prepared by Heather Seaman

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