



MORNINGSIDE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MCA Meetings Tackle Big Issues

The MCA Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Park Clubhouse. All neighbors are welcome to attend. The agenda is posted to the MCA website in advance and the minutes are posted after the meeting. The MCA Board discusses timely issues impacting the neighborhood and invites the police and local officials to address concerns.

Code Compliance Concerns Addressed

In 2019, the MCA organized several special meetings. First, in May, the MCA hosted **Adele Valencia, City of Miami Director of Code Compliance**. Ms. Valencia provided valuable input and advice for handling code compliance issues (i.e. noise nuisances, short-term rental abuses, abandoned vehicles or property, etc.), providing resources and contact information to report concerns.

For those that could not attend the meeting, Ms. Valencia offered the advice to report issues to the Code Compliance office.

FPL Proposes Pilot Project to Underground Power Lines in Morningside

At the June and September MCA meetings, President **Eli Stiers** arranged for Florida Power and Light (FPL) to present their pilot project for burying the electrical service lines in parts of the north side of the neighborhood.

The project entails removing the current overhead electrical lines and installing instead approximately 18 transformers in resident's yards, provided the resident's grant FPL an easement to do so.

TIPS TO REPORT CODE VIOLATIONS

1. Call City of Miami Code Inspector Ebony Palmer at (305) 303-7011 and document your complaint each time you encounter it;
2. Call the City of Miami Code Compliance Hotline at (786) 457-0995 and document your complaint;
3. Call the City of Miami Police Department Non-Emergency Number at (305) 579-6111 to report a violation in progress, such as a noise nuisance; and
4. Lastly, email Adele Valencia, Director Code Compliance at avalencia@miamigov.com to further document your issue.



The proposed transformer that would be installed in some resident's lawns, with their permission.

The FPL representatives discussed the advantages and disadvantages of undergrounding the neighborhood's power lines, and gave residents an opportunity to ask questions at the MCA meetings.

After the June meeting, and in response to residents' concerns about transformers in the front yards of historic homes, FPL changed course and advised that it will instead pursue placing the transformers in the rear of homes that meet FPL's criteria.

"With regards to the project we currently have ongoing in the northern portion of Morningside, we are going to make an exception to all this an attempt to move forward with this project by installing transformers in the rear of the homes since the northern side of Morningside is considered historic."

Javier Prado - Lead FP&L Project Manager, Miami-Dade

According to Mr. Prado, those homes located on the east side of Bayshore Drive and some corner lots may not be eligible for rear-yard transformers. However, these would be the only locations in which some transformers would be placed in front yards, but within existing easements.

FPL has a design process underway and a new Community Outreach Specialist named Sabrina Colon, (Sabrina.Colon@fpl.com), who will be contacting homeowners individually to begin the process anew. Expect to be contacted by Ms. Colon if you live in the historic section of the neighborhood.

At the September MCA meeting, FPL representatives attended and announced that FPL is now also exploring undergrounding the lines in the south side of the neighborhood, and will be presenting its findings to the MCA in the coming months. In the south side, however, FPL currently plans to install transformers in the front of homes, within existing easements. This plan was met with some resistance from south side homeowners who felt that the rear of their homes would be the preferred place. FPL took the position that backyard transformers pose logistical challenges for installation and repair.

The MCA plans to invite FPL to future MCA meetings to continue to give feedback during this planning phase.

“Kidical Mass” Rides Return

Kidical Mass, launched by MCA Board Member **Rachel Furst**, in 2018, has grown into a wonderful event that unites the neighborhood and allows people of all ages and abilities to enjoy our streets in a safe and fun way. The events draw over 100 neighbors and are chaperoned by City police officers on bikes and in patrol cars. Morningside children, parents and friends bike a route that takes them through the entire neighborhood.



Police officers and kids gather for a photo at the start of the May bike ride.

There were three bike ride events held during this summer, organized by Mrs. Furst. After the May ride, everyone attended gathered on 59th street for a "block party" sponsored by the MCA and hosted by the Kaplan, Holtzman,

Eilemberg, Bijaaoui, and Murena families. The Shabani family's Rice Mediterranean Kitchen provided catering to feed the hungry crowd.

The August 20 ride was also well attended by neighbors and, again, was police escorted. The last ride of the season on September 20 was followed by a block-party generously hosted by the Colmer, Calasso, Fey, Starke, and McManus families. They joined together to throw a pizza party and to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Dorian. Both the May and September block parties ended with a visit from an ice cream truck, which was always a special treat for the kids (and some adults, too).

And a big thanks to the 2019 volunteers who made these events a success, including Jackie Ledon and Cecilia Henrique for posting signs, Justin Kaplan for helping to keep everyone on course, and Lyle Charriff, for agreeing to donate guide signs to be used in future rides. If you and your neighbors would like to host a block party in 2020, please reach out to Rachel Furst to coordinate.

City of Miami Presents Draft Park Plan to Neighborhood

On August 21, City of Miami representatives, including Mayor Francis Suarez, City Commission Ken Russell, Director of Parks and Recreation, Lara Hamwey, and Director of Capital Improvements Steve Williamson, along with Joe Webb, Director of Park Planning at AECOM, hosted a community meeting at the parks community building to unveil their proposed general plan for Morningside Park.



Proposed layout of Morningside Park presented by City of Miami.

There were more than 75 community members in attendance. The City's proposed plan features a new pool along NE 55th Terrace, new ball fields, and a new playground. The plan received mixed reviews from the community at the meeting. Some raised concerns over the location of the pool and other amenities. People appeared unanimous, however, in wanting the City to act immediately and allocate funds to repair and improve the park.

At the September MCA meeting, the MCA Board voted to support the City's provisional plan, as presented at the August 21 meeting, including the City's recommendation to build a new pool adjacent to the Community Center. The MCA expects to continue to provide feedback to the City on

October 2019

the specifics of the pool and other aspects of the plan, and to lobby the City for immediate action to fund and implement repairs to the Park.

Spring Social Events Delight



The Easter Bunny visits with kids at the annual Egg Hunt in Morningside Park, held on April 20.

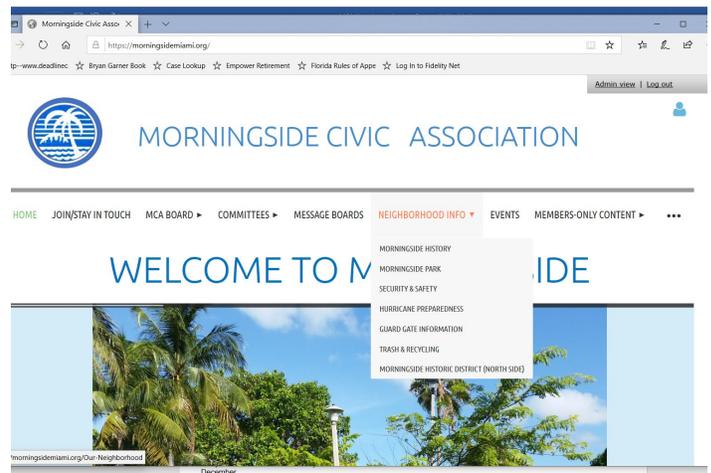
The Social Committee, led by Board Member **Tatiana Loza** organized several events this year sponsored by the MCA, including the MCA Spring Social, held on March 14 at Ironside Pizza, which had 50 attendees and the Easter Egg Hunt, held on April 20 in Morningside Park. There are more events this year, including a Halloween Party in October and the Holiday Parties in November and December.

A survey regarding the Thanksgiving and December Holiday parties is currently posted on the Social Committee's webpage at www.morningsidemiami.org, to gather feedback regarding the planning of the parties. Please take time to complete it.

MCA Website Serves as Resource

The MCA website at www.morningsidemiami.org now includes important and helpful information for the community. There you can pay and renew your MCA membership dues, RSVP for social events, and find phone numbers for local police, guard gate attendants, and the roving patrol, and learn about Morningside history.

Many of the MCA committees have their own pages with key documents posted. Also, if you log-in to the website using your email address and password, you can view documents under the "Members Only" content tab, including MCA meeting minutes, the MCA member directory, and photos from MCA events.



The Members Directory lists the phone numbers, email addresses, and home addresses of MCA members.

Under the "Neighborhood Info Tab," you can find the following pages:

- [Morningside History](#)
- [Morningside Park](#)
- [Security & Safety](#)
- [Hurricane Preparedness](#)
- [Guard Gate Information](#)
- [Trash & Recycling](#)
- [Morningside Historic District \(North Side\)](#)

October 2019

Home Tour 2020 Needs Volunteers

The MCA will again host a Morningside Historic Home Tour in the spring of 2020. This is the neighborhood's key event, planned and staffed entirely by more than 100 volunteer residents. It is one of our neighborhood's proudest days and an important source of revenue; the proceeds help to fund MCA initiatives and events for the years that follow, keeping the MCA annual dues low.

The Home Tour Committee will meet in the winter and spring to plan the 2020 event. Details regarding the tour will be posted on the MCA website. Please visit the site and volunteer to lend a hand.



GUARD GATES GET A NEW LOOK

Miami Dade County allocated some of the special taxing district funds this year to paint and to install new light fixtures and landscaping at the 50th and 58th street entrances. Below are the before and after photos. The MCA will seek additional landscaping improvements next budget yet.



2019 MCA BOARD

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 RACHEL FURST, VICE PRESIDENT, AT LARGE
 ROB POLLACK, SECRETARY, DISTRICT 6
 JOHN CALKINS, TREASURER, DISTRICT 1
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 TATIANA LOZA, DISTRICT 5
 MARC BILLINGS, DISTRICT 6
 DAVID HOLTZMAN, AT LARGE
 NEIL ROBERTSON, AT LARGE

**A listing of all current MCA committee chairs, along with the contact information for these board members, is posted on the MCA website.*

Security remains MCA priority

The MCA Security Committee this year is chaired by **Juan Ruiz** and **Jacqueline Ledon**.

The Committee has focused on making the entrances to the neighborhood more secure by exploring ways to light the pedestrian gates and install security cameras there. The Committee has also pursued, with the approval of the MCA, an initiative to secure permission from the City and County to divert pedestrian traffic during the evening hours through the 58th street and 50th street entrances, and to close the other pedestrian gates. This effort, though initially approved by the County, is being reconsidered by the City of Miami attorney. In the meanwhile, the Committee hopes to fundraise privately among neighbors to install motion lighting and cameras.

Our local police officers continue to encourage residents to report any crime as soon as it occurs to the non-emergency number and directly to our neighborhood resource officers, so that crimes can be addressed immediately, accurate statistics can be gathered, and repeat offenders identified.

Remember that all the relevant phone numbers and email addresses of our assigned police officers are posted to the MCA website under the Safety and Security tab.

Please join the MCA or renew your MCA membership at www.morningsidemiami.org. Your \$40 annual dues support all the good work the MCA volunteers are doing to build community and improve our wonderful neighborhood Morningside.