

Hendricks and Isles of Venice

NewsLetter

April 2023

Provided by Your Neighbor Association



Last month the City of Fort Lauderdale had a ribbon cutting-ceremony to mark the completion of the Hendricks Isle Seawall Replacement project with Commissioner Steve Glassman. The improvements made part of this project will help reduce tidal flooding along Hendricks Isle and make us better prepared for future king tide events and sea level rise.

Thank you to the City of Fort Lauderdale for continuing to make wonderful improvements around our city.



We've Updated our Website

Please take a look at our more robust and up to date website, www.hendricksveniceisles.com.

You'll find fresh and timely information about our mission, the makeup of your board, upcoming events and news that impacts our neighborhood. Thanks to our neighbor, Jennifer Ginsburg, for helping with this important communications initiative. If you have suggestions for the site please contact her at jenginsburg16@gmail.com, if you have story or other content ideas please contact Stan Stein at Stan@publicitygroupllc.com.

A Message from Debby Eisinger, President HVNA:

As the development of luxury boutique condominiums and townhomes continues, a strong HVNA takes on greater importance in our desire to protect and preserve our property values and quality of life.

Over the past year, developers have reached out to the HVNA for project approval support. The 10 Hendricks Isle project, with minimal set-back modification requests, received unanimous support from the HVNA Board and HVNA Development Review Committee members. At the request of the HVNA Board, the developer agreed to:

1. Bury utility lines underground from in front of the project;
2. Provide off-site-off-street parking for constructions crews and subcontractors;
3. Hire off-duty police to facilitate traffic along the street while large construction materials are being delivered;
4. Maintain a clean development site and limit the spread of debris;
5. To incur the costs of any and all roadway, curbside, swale, and sidewalk damages as a result of construction.

Unfortunately, the 500 Hendricks Isle project, which met with significant opposition from neighboring residents and the HVNA, was approved for development as a result of a written judicial Order. The saga of the 500 Hendricks Isle project began with an initial 4-3 approval vote by the City's Planning and Zoning Board on April 20, 2022, despite strong opposition from neighboring property owners and the HVNA Board.

Knowing there existed strong opposition from his constituents, Commissioner Steve Glassman requested that the City Commission hold a De Novo hearing on the proposed development project. With the support from his fellow Commission members, the De Novo hearing was scheduled and resulted in a denial of the development application.

Apparently, a recent law passed by the Florida Legislature, which created a time frame for local government to deny a development application if the application was properly submitted, annulled the City Commission's vote to deny the 500 Hendricks LLC applicant its development rights. In their commitment to "good government" and listening to their constituents, the City Commission held firm on their position until a court of law formally quashed the City's Commission's denial of the application.

There are currently plans for the development of the 87 Isle of Venice property. The developer hosted a meeting on-site and invited surrounding neighbors and the HVNA Board for a development plan presentation. The Board unanimously felt that the original plans which included set-back modifications was too aggressive. After some back and forth dialogue and developer modifications to the plans, the HVNA Board ultimately was divided as to support of the project. The Board therefore decided not to offer a position on the project to the City. This does not preclude individual residents from speaking out in support or opposition of the project. The Board will, however, submit requests for specific concessions from the developer should the project be approved. These concessions are similar to those requested of the developer for the 10 Hendricks Isle development project.

Along with advocating for “smart growth and development,” your HVNA Board and committees are hard at work addressing parking challenges, neighborhood safety, speeding, clean waterways, marine compliance and other issues that are brought to our attention by you, our fellow residents. With the growing need for greater resident input in government action, the HVNA Board of Directors is looking to expand the size of its Board of Directors and committee membership.

The Association Bylaws allow for Board expansion of up to 15 members. The Board recently voted to expand from its current 5 members to 7 members. Having a strong and active Board is extremely important to the success of our Neighborhood Association. It is the goal of the Board to vote upon various matters and issues affecting or potentially affecting the neighborhood. While membership input is tremendously important when positions on issues such as development or parking are being considered, it is the Board that is responsible to vote and provide its advisory opinion to the government entity which possesses the legal authority to implement action. The Board is strictly advisory in nature. However, we believe that the City and County seriously consider the position of the Board in their decision-making process.

Currently, the Board is seeking applicants with a particular interest in **waterway and coastal issues** (keeping our waterways safe and enjoyable) and **community safety and security**. We also invite members to join a committee. Committees include:

Development – tasked with reviewing development applications for neighborhood compatibility and compliance and making advisory recommendations.

Parking & Roadway Enforcement – this committee is in the process of reviewing other neighborhood parking permit programs which will be helpful in creating a program that fits the needs of property owners along Hendricks & Venice Isles.

Waterway & Coastal Safety and Cleanliness – the value of our properties is significantly impacted by the quality and cleanliness of our waterways. Boating and recreational water sports are paramount to our lifestyles. By working together with the appropriate governmental entities, this committee will provide input regarding the safety and cleanliness of our waterways.

Safety & Security – by working together with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, this committee is tasked with surfacing ideas and suggestions for improvement of neighborhood safety and security.

Social Media & Communications – this committee is tasked with finding avenues for expanding the HVNA's social media presence, keeping the the HVNA website, Twitter and Facebook accounts up-to-date, and assist with membership recruitment.

Social Events & Activities – this committee will coordinate social events and other activities that bring our neighborhood together.

**For additional information on joining
the HVNA Board or committee
please email:
HendricksVeniceIsles@gmail.com or
call Debby Eisinger at 954-253-9538**



Parking Update - HVNA Awaits City Funding for Traffic/Parking

Hurry up and wait. That's where the Hendricks Isle/Isle of Venice Neighborhood Association Parking Committee is at this point. Our last formal meeting with the City of Fort Lauderdale Transportation and Mobility was in January, when the process was to begin to fund a study to be performed by Kimley-Horn. The process seemed to be working its way through City Hall, but some administrative issues relating to contract costs have delayed initiation of the study.

As a result, we've asked that the traffic study be implemented post-Thanksgiving so the results are more reflective of the heart of the parking issue, which is at its worst from November through April. Our goals remain clear, based on input from the HVNA Board of Directors, members of the association, as well as feedback from the City:

- A residential parking permit program (PPR), likely similar to one in place in Collee Hammock. In general terms, each full-time Hendricks/Isle of Venice resident would have an opportunity to purchase, at a nominal annual fee, two resident and two guest parking permits. The goal is to reduce available parking to beachgoers, short-term renters, hotel guests without parking, car-sharing services who leave their cars on our streets for others to pick up and liveaboards with no provided parking. The result will be much more available parking for full-time residents, their service providers such as air conditioning repair, plumbers, maintenance people, as well as overnight guests.
- Potential installation of traffic calming devices, aka speedbumps. A significant majority of our membership have voiced concern about residents and non-residents alike speeding up and down our narrow roads, and two devices on each of our two streets should significantly increase basic public safety.
- Better and more consistent signage. As we've gone from shabby to chic, signage for speed limits and parking restrictions has either been removed, unlawfully altered or was never installed to begin with.

The HVNA Parking Committee is headed by Stan Stein. Other members include Mike Liebowitz, Eric Lode, Robbie Berthelot and Brian Mayhew. Please let one of them know if you have questions or concerns, or contact Stan at Stan@publicitygroupllc.com.

Meet Your Board of Directors



Debby Esinger
President



Stan Stein
Vice President



Jim Broder
Legal Counsel



Randy Aube
Treasurer



Jennifer Ginsburg
Marketing & Social Media

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joining the HVNA Board or
committee please email:
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