Board of Directors Meeting
Attended via ZOOM
September 10, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order – at 7:01pm by President Lori Sterling

Attendance/Board Roll Call

Present: Alex Jean, Mark Snead, Lori Sterling, Chuck Tatelbaum, Luci Mazza, Solomon Schoonover, Nancy Messing, Ryan Lehrer, Evan Jaxtheimer, Bill Kirk

Absent:

Late arrival: JJ Rajter (joined at 7:12pm)

1. Approval of August 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Nancy Messing
Second: Mark Snead

All present board members approved and accepted minutes, and such minutes were formally approved.

2. Miscellaneous

- **Holiday party participation; Memorial Hospital possibly to provide face-painters for Holiday party**
- **YMCA to provide tent**

3. Report of Officers

a. President's report (Lori Sterling) Topic – Rio Vista Safety & Security

- **Summary crime analysis revealed patterns with Rio Vista experiencing some increased criminal activity concentrated on waterfront properties**
  - **Isles homes include 186 of 1,000 total neighbor households yet experienced 44 of 122 total reported incidents, representing double the crime rate of RV interior neighborhoods**
  - **Auto theft statistics show 31% increase from 16 incidents in 2024 to 21 incidents in 2025 during comparable January-August 2024/2025 periods**
  - **Statistics also identified that 71% of stolen vehicles (15 of 21) were left unlocked and 62% (13 of 21) had keys left inside, indicating preventable crimes**

- **Burglary incidents increased 50% from 16 in 2024 to 24 in 2025, primarily involving theft from unlocked vehicles and crimes of opportunity rather than home break-ins**
- **Alex Jean noted that geographic crime concentration follows predictable patterns with waterfront aisles targeted due to higher-value vehicles and reduced foot traffic creating opportunity for criminals.**

- **Certain individual Isle residents initiated private armed security, hiring retired police officers for overnight shifts on 10th, 9th, and 11th Street Isles.**
  - **Armed guards positioned in unmarked vehicles rotating between 3-4 homes per aisle rather than patrolling entire street sections.**
  - **Revenue risk to Protect RVCA program as Isle residents contribute 40-50% participation rates to Protect Rio Vista program compared to 30% neighborhood average.**

- **Enhanced night patrol coverage achieved 80% availability with 12 of 15 nights covered between midnight and 6 AM through higher compensation for officers.**

- **Board discussed strategic response to Isles steps of private security initiatives**
  - **JJ Rajter noted that proposed message to Isles residents might be most effective to encourage a "layered security approach" combining private guards with neighborhood patrol for comprehensive coverage rather than isolated protection**
  - **Conclusion that RVCA should avoid administrative burden associated with proposing to assist in the management of the individual private security contracts; also might create more complexity and liability concerns**
  - **Conclusion of best strategy with Isles was to provide objective crime data on a regular basis, which might educate and encourage residents that continued participation in Protect Rio Vista is most effective for all residents, including the Isles.**

- **Lori noted that City Commissioner Ben Sorensen might be resource for addressing Isle resident concerns and maintaining civic association support**
  - **Commissioner attended 7th Street aisle meeting and witnessed resident frustrations firsthand, immediately began working on gate ordinance modifications and has Isle resident confidence.**
  - **RVCA Legal representative Chuck Tatelbaum agreed to formally request commissioner support for civic association security sit-down; meeting messaging approach to emphasize continued Protect Rio Vista support to provide layered security benefits rather than discouraging Isle residents private security investments**

- **Upcoming September 22, 2025 to be rescheduled to September 29th in light of the Jewish holidays which would impact total community participation**
  - **Lori Sterling to reconfirm Police specialists participation for presentations on marine patrol, auto theft investigation, and specialized crime units, as well as City Manager and Commissioner Sorensen attendance.**

- **JJ Rajter to provide contact information Lori Sterling for Fort Lauderdale's new cyber security director as potential future speaker**

Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned at 8:07pm.

Future Meeting and Events

	Board Meeting (7pm zoom or live TBD)	General Meeting 7 PM in person	GUESTS BOOKED
9		9/22/25	
10	10/15/25		
11	11/19/25		
12	12/15/25 (tentative 6pm pre meeting before General Meeting)	12/15/2025 (Meeting at 7pm following Board Meeting)	