

DSCA 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Here are some of the highlights for the year 2017.

Education & Outreach:

- DSCA received presentation from Ryan McCarthy on the Feb. 5th Sarasota Music Half Marathon – January 11, 2017
- Rich Swier Jr. presented to the DSCA Board regarding new location for **The HuB** at Palm Tower and plans to engage with younger members of the community – Feb. 1, 2017.
- Held the DSCA Annual Member Meeting and [Workshop on Chronic Homelessness in Sarasota](#) – April 5, 2017.
 - **Peter Fanning**, DSCA President Emeritus & Chair of Homeless Committee
 - **Joe Polzak**, Police Legal Advisor, Assistant City Attorney, Sarasota Police Department
 - **Sgt Schwieterman**, Sarasota Police Department
- Hosted the **Forum on Optimal Living in Sarasota** – a luncheon seminar at the Hyatt hotel (with 30 sponsor/exhibitors) – April 12, 2017
 - **John McCarthy**, Director of Advancement Historic Spanish Point – **Moderator**
 - **Kathy Black**, Ph.D., Professor USF Sarasota-Manatee, Topic: ***The Role of Age-Friendly Sarasota in Optimal Living in Our Community***
 - **Tom Barwin**, Sarasota City Manager, Topic: ***Key City Initiatives that Support Optimal Living in Sarasota***
 - **Jamie Minton**, Girls Inc. Director of K-8 Initiatives Young Professionals Group Government Issues Board Chair, Topic: ***The Needs of Millennials for an Optimal Living Environment***
 - **Hedda Matza-Haughton**, LCSW, Co-Chair, Board of Directors Arts for Health Sarasota-Manatee Topic: ***“Laugh for the Health of It” for Optimal Living***
 - **Greg Hall**, Principal, Hall Architects Topic: ***Designing for an Optimal Living Environment***
 - **Mary Dougherty-Slapp**, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Builders Exchange, Topic: ***Building a Better Community Together***
 - **Kevin Cooper**, President/CEO, The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Topic: ***Chamber Programs Addressing All Ages for Optimal Living in Sarasota***

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- Howard Davis presented on the Development Planning initiative in the **Rosemary District**; presented the groups nine guiding principles and recommendations derived from area survey – Sep. 20, 2017.
- DSCA Safety Committee gathered a set of **Lessons Learned from Hurricane Irma**, which was distributed to members – Oct. 2017.
- **Steve Stancel**, City Economic Development General Manager presented **Fruitville Road Streetscape Project Review** – Oct. 4, 2017. The goal of the project is to adjust the current suburban thoroughfare character of Fruitville Road, between US 41 and US 301 to more closely reflect that of an urban boulevard.
<http://www.sarasotagov.org/Projects/FruitvilleStreetscape.cfm>
Objectives include:
 - Slowing traffic speeds without negatively impacting current levels of service.
 - Facilitating safe pedestrian activity and walkability between the downtown urban core and the Rosemary and Gillespie Park Neighborhoods.
 - Enhancing the aesthetic value of one of the primary gateways into the City.
 - Promotion of economic development and vitality of the corridor.
- **Steve Cover**, City Planning Department Director, presented on transportation improvements throughout the City, and plans on Bayfront 20:20 – Dec. 11, 2017.
- DSCA Board began discussions on how non-condo residents in the downtown neighborhood could be represented and participate within DSCA. Discussions were held with representatives of several apartment complexes in downtown Sarasota. This resulted in the formation of a new **Residential Associate member category**.
- DSCA **4th Quarter Newsletter** was issued on Dec. 19, 2017 which highlighted:
 - Zoning Code Committee Findings and Recommendations
 - Street Closure for Special Events Rules
 - Hurricane Irma: The Aftermath & Lessons Learned
 - What's New in the Rosemary District
- The DSCA website Members Area was used by members to post topics of interest and solicit suggestions on items from other condo members.
- DSCA Board Directors and Member Representatives were sent notice of monthly Board meetings and Board Meeting Minutes each month.
- DSCA Board representatives attended monthly meetings of our liaison organizations:
 - [Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations](#) (CCNA)
 - [Downtown Improvement District](#) (DID)
 - [Downtown Sarasota Alliance](#) (DSA)
 - [Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce](#) – City Priority Council
 - [Sarasota Bayfront 20:20 Stakeholders](#)
 - [Sarasota Bayfront Planning Organization](#) – (SBPO)

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- DSCA continued to use its social media pages to promote news of interests to its members and the public:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/DowntownSarasotaCondoAssoc/>
 - <https://twitter.com/DtownSrqCondo>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDvRv-0mdvc0T1-Fi0CGZQw>
 - <https://plus.google.com/104777339950851944470>
- DSCA Board accepted the following new **Regular Condo Member**:
 - Royal St. Andrew
- DSCA Board accepted the following new **Associate Members**:
 - Alderman Oaks Retirement Center
 - Bird Key Yacht Club
 - Building Connections LLC
 - Concrete Painting & Restoration
 - Cornerstone LifeCare LLC
 - DowntownSarasota.com
 - Girl Friday Services, Inc.
 - Gulfshore Insurance, Inc.
 - Hemingway Builders
 - Pestguard Commercial Services
 - Professional Plumbing & Design, Inc.
 - Sabal Palm Bank
 - Sean McCutcheon's Air Conditioning & Heating
 - SWFL Insurance Specialist
 - Tableside Restaurant Group
 - Wrightway Emergency Services

Commentary & Advocacy:

- DSCA Board voted unanimously to support **Proposed City Tree Mitigation Ordinance** – Feb. 1, 2017.
- Prior to Feb. 9, 2017, notification to residents about Land Development Applications was strictly via hardcopy notices mailed to property owners with 500 feet of a development or notices mailed to the DSCA PO Box (which is only checked once a week). On Feb. 6, 2017, DSCA sent a Request for Email Notifications on Land Development to the City Clerk. On Feb. 9, 2017, the City Clerk announced the availability for email subscription to notices regarding Development Applications.

“The Office of the City Auditor and Clerk will begin to offer email subscription notifications in addition to the current practice of mailing notifications to neighboring property owners within 500ft of the subject property as currently required by the City of Sarasota Zoning Code (2002 Ed). Notice of Filing of new Development Applications as well as Notice of Decisions for administratively reviewed applications will be sent via the City's email subscription service to interested parties who have subscribed to receive such notices.”

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The DSCA email address is subscribed to receive all these notices and the DSCA President forwards email notices (as they are received) to condo member representatives for new developments that are nearby to their property

- DSCA also requested that the City Engineers office send out notices of street & Right-of-Way closures. The DSCA email address currently receives the ROW Closure notices.
- Peter Fanning provided update on **Homeless Committee to Downtown Improvement District** on Mar. 7, 2017.
- DSCA began discussion on **City Events Street Closure Approval Rules** with representative of the Sarasota Downtown Merchants Association (SDMA) and the Downtown Sarasota Alliance (DSA). A survey of DSCA members was conducted in June 2017. Michael Normile prepared several drafts and met with City officials and the reps from DSA & SDMA. A final proposal was approved at the Sep. 20 DSCA Board meeting.
- DSCA Board approved Scope/Goals for a new **Ad-hoc Committee on Zoning Code** with Mel Sykes serving as Chair - May 3, 2017. The committee conducted a survey of members in June 2017. The results of the survey were reviewed by the Board and with City Staff. The final recommendations were approved by the Board – Nov. 1, 2017.
- DSCA Board approved formation of an **Associate Member Committee** in July 2017. The committee proposed 3 new categories (Silver, Gold, Platinum), which were approved – Aug. 9, 2017.
- DSCA Board approved sending a letter to City Commissioners in support of budget requests for additional SPD staffing – July 12, 2017.
- Bob Pirollo was elected to the **Bayfront 20:20 Steering Committee** on July 24.
- Roger Barry was appointed to the Metropolitan Planning Organization's **Barrier Island Study Committee**, and kept members informed of the progress of the study.
- DSCA Board approved requesting the City of Sarasota investigate the feasibility of building a roundabout at the Blvd of the Arts and US 41 – Dec. 11, 2017.
- The **iRide Sarasota**, on-demand downtown shuttle service, began operating March 29 2017. (Pictured: Patrick Gannon, President; Peter Fannin, President Emeritus)

