



## DSCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Broadway Promenade and Zoom

### Board Members Present:

David Lough, Jaime Still, Clark Lauren, Judy Mower, Patrick Gannon, Bob Pirollo, Ken Shelin, Catherine Sellers, Alan Freedman, Peter Fanning, Roger Barry.

**Board Members Absent:** None

### Member Representatives Present:

Ted Wilson, Regency House; Jim Lampl, Jewel; Janice Hetland, 101 Condominium; Irving Ross, Bay Plaza, Janet Stern-Solomon, Sarabande; Rosemary Krimbel, Alinari; Dick Rivera, Savoy on Palm; Richard Mones, Renaissance; Irving Ross, Bay Plaza; Deborah Hutchinson, St. Regis; Janice Hetland, 101 Condominium

### Associate Members Present:

Kristin Fourie, CORE Marketing Solutions; Jenn Poppen, Fifth Third Bank; Donna McCombe, Cadence Bank

### Guests Present:

Kafi Benz, CONA; Tim Witz, Broadway Promenade; Charlie Nagelschmidt, Broadway Promenade; Fran Lambert, Bay Plaza; Steve Mannik, Royal St. Andrew; Shari Bunks Geller, Beau Ciel; Mike Cosentino, Reopen Beach Road; Monica Balicki, Mike Cosentino for County Commissioner.

Meeting called to order by Board President, David Lough, at 4pm. Quorum established.

**1. Minutes** of Board meeting March 2, 2022, accepted ( A. Freedman / K. Shelin). Recap of annual members meeting on March 24 included that current DSCA board members were re-elected, David Lough and Jaime Still were elected as Board President and Vice President, respectively, and Judy Mower was voted onto the board.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Clark Lauren: Bank balance = \$18,657.61.

Resolution approved: President David Lough and Vice President Jaime Still are authorized to sign DSCA checks and sign for DSCA credit card charges. (C. Lauren / P. Gannon)

Clark Lauren will obtain bank signer resolution from Sabal Palm bank to effect this board decision.

### 3. New Business:

Guest Speaker, Brendan Regan, Artistic Director, Urbanite Theatre, <https://www.urbanitetheatre.com/> explained that the mission of Sarasota's professional "Black Box" theater, founded in 2015, is to present recent works by playwrights earning national reputations for authoring plays that focus on current issues and themes sometimes

described as “edgy”. Professional directors and actors from across the country spend months in Sarasota working on these plays and presenting them to appreciative audiences looking for alternatives to more “traditional”, theater fare (e.g. Asolo, FST). As do other black box theaters around the nation, Urbanite features flexible/changeable staging in an intimate setting – only 70 seats for most performances. The building’s location at 1487 Second Street is walkable for lots of downtowners and has plenty of audience parking nearby, but lacks on-site storage space for things like props, scenery, and costumes. Housing for directors and actors for the four to ten weeks they are in residence is also a challenge. Urbanite has been renting air B&B’s and similar accommodations at costs affordable given the income limit set by having only 70 seats to fill, and some donors have generously served as hosts. Before the pandemic almost all performances were sold out, and as Urbanite is now live again, that degree of success seems to be repeating itself. Mr. Regan’s hope for the future is that Urbanite can expand seating but keep its current location, find close storage space, and secure dependable and affordable housing for its visiting artists. We are urged to consider including Urbanite Theatre in our future philanthropy.

#### **4. City Update: C. Sellers**

At Monday’s (4/4) City Commission meeting the partnership agreement between the Sarasota Performing Arts Center and the Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation was finalized. DSCA had supported that partnership, and continues to support it, despite questions that have lately been raised about the affordability of the project. Another item of interest at that meeting, the so called “sitting and lying down” ordinance affecting homeless people, will be described in a later section of this report. At Tuesday’s (4/5) meeting David Lough gave an overview of DSCA and last week’s visit to Sarasota by Dr. Jenny Roe. (Board member packets sent prior to the meeting included the PowerPoint file for that presentation and reports of events surrounding Dr. Roe’s visit made available to Commission members.)

#### **5. President’s report: D. Lough**

Our organization needs more volunteers to help the board achieve DSCA objectives. We need ways to identify and cultivate/attract more board members and committee participants. Browsing e-comments sent in by city residents concerning items before the Commission could be a way to identify people whose concerns match DSCA’s. We need other sources of ideas and names, and a clear, shared perspective on the areas of expertise and personal qualities of the people we would most like to attract. David Lough will work on preparing a clear “job description” for a member of the DSCA Board of Directors. Judy Mower will work with David in developing a matrix of desired expertise areas, qualifications, and personal qualities for the board and for each of the board’s standing committees.

#### **6. Arts and Cultural Committee: K. Shelin**

The April DSCA newsletter will feature this year’s very successful Sarasota Arts Festival. On April 13 an exhibit by Cynthia Burnell, *Art in Common Places*, will be at Condo on the Bay. Incorporating the values of diversity and inclusion into public art in Sarasota seems to be a

challenge. An area of even more challenge is the lack of a clear and thoughtful process to guide the acquisition of public art, and there is no qualified staff to oversee the commissioning/choosing of artists and artwork meant for our downtown indoor and outdoor public spaces.

### **7. Associate Members and Events Committee: J. Still**

The Jenny Roe visit has been deemed a huge success. Around 170 people attended or participated in various events DSCA created to educate local decision makers and leaders about her *Seven Pillars* approach to urban planning centered on mental health and well-being. The Challenge for DSCA now is to find ways to carry forward the work begun in those sessions. Feedback to DSCA leadership by Dr. Roe is that she is very impressed by what she saw in Sarasota, the Bay Park Conservancy especially, and by her interactions with community representatives, and she plans to make Sarasota into a case study for her current and future students to learn from. They will be following our progress. Two possibilities for follow up on items of her advice: 1) begin a project to enlist volunteers and experts in finding ways to build connections between and among our urban parks and other greenspaces; 2) identify and begin to track statistics that reveal the local effects of environment and social connectedness on mental and physical health of Sarasota residents. Not being able to establish a relationship between one of the local colleges and Dr. Roe is a disappointment. DSCA was successful in receiving a \$3000 neighborhood grant from the city to underwrite the costs of her visit, and grants from Visit Sarasota, BID, and the City's Economic Development Corporation covered more of those costs, leaving only around \$1800 to come from DSCA. On May 10, from 4-7 PM at Art Ovation Hotel, DSCA will host an event focused on technology for condominiums. Member condo associations are urged to send representatives. Here is the link to learn more and register.

<https://dsc.wildapricot.org/event-4766688>

### **8. Greenspace Committee: P. Gannon**

There needs to be an inventory of Sarasota's 71 downtown parks, listing their attributes and amenities, easily accessible online to DSCA members and others. Such a report, done two years ago, does exist, but it is on paper, very heavy and detailed – not likely to be digitized. Roger Barry of Sunset Towers spoke about a good example of a "pocket park" that has been created at Sunset Point. A photo of that park was included in pre-meeting packet. The Alinari purchased next door property and at its own expense converted it into a fairly large open space newly planted with trees – one of the few "noncity" parks downtown.

### **9. Homelessness Committee: P. Fanning**

At the last City Commission there was reading of a proposed amendment to the so-called "sitting and lying down" ordinance that would clarify what those terms mean and describe in

better detail what situations they apply to (specifically where on a sidewalk or other public premises, etc.). The change to the ordinance would also mean the required warning to vacate would “follow the person” as he/she moves to another nearby spot (rather than requiring a second “first warning” to have to be repeated). The following motion, made by P. Fanning and seconded by K. Shelin, was approved by the board, with R. Barry and P. Gannon abstaining (their reasons for doing so having to do with wanting more time to read the ordinance for themselves).

Motion Re: Ordinance No. 22-5413 – Amendment to the City Code, Chapter 30, Streets, Sidewalks and other Public Places, Article 1 to be known as Section 30-26.

Move that the DSCA Board of Directors approve sending a letter of support and giving oral testimony at the City Commission meeting where Ordinance no. 22-5413 has a second reading, such action shall support the Amendment as it is presently proposed or with those changes deemed appropriate and added during second reading by an affirmative vote of the Commission. Should the next DSCA board meeting occur before the second reading of the Ordinance, any potential letter of support would be further discussed. Any letter of support will be sent to the Mayor with copies sent to other Commissioners and each charter official.

#### **10. Health and Safety Committee: C. Sellers**

Sarasota Police Department has been approved to hire 10 new officers, 8 of whom will be assigned to foot patrol. The SPD investigation of the recent murders of two women resulted in the suspected perpetrator now being in jail. Most people who have expressed an opinion about the recent shooting of a building squatter in a downtown condo by a member of the Sarasota County Sheriffs’ Office have praised the SCSO for their action, given that the squatter had threatened their lives with a knife. Even so, a small group organized via social media did protest.

#### **11. Transportation Committee: R. Barry**

The new trolley system has been a huge success, and the recently made available electric scooters are being well-used. Sometimes one of them gets abandoned rather than returned to a scooter station – and this has become a bit of a problem. We are asked to let the Parks Department know if we find one of those ‘gone astray’ scooters - the “Click to Fix” app could be helpful. After ten PM they are shut down remotely, which may account for why a few of them get found in places they are not supposed to be.

##### **a. EV Charger Subcommittee: A. Freedman**

Seven surveys about e.v. chargers at condominiums have been received, and data is now being analyzed. Alan Freedman and Patrick Gannon will meet to discuss ways to summarize the survey results. A summary report of those results is planned for inclusion at the May 10 session on Technology.

**12. Zoning Code Committee:**

No report.

**13. Bay Park Conservancy: R. Pirollo**

There will be a “soft opening” of the Park in August and a “hard opening” later in the year. Everything is going well and visible improvements along 41 are underway.

**14. CCNA: T. Wilson**

The agenda for the CCNA April 2 meeting featured a presentation called the Missing Middle.

**15. Rosemary District Association: D. Lough**

Kimley-Horn will present a new park concept in rendering form based on results of the recently conducted park survey. Members of City staff will present the results of the Blvd. of the Arts and 10<sup>th</sup> street “Streetscape Survey” at the RDA board meeting on April 12.

**16. Associate Members Update: K. Fourie**

- a. Cadence Bank - McCombe
- b. CORE Marketing Solutions – Fourie
- c. Fifth Third Bank - Poppen

Meeting adjourned at 6PM.

Next meeting May 4, 2022, 4 pm via hybrid Broadway Promenade and Zoom.