

DSCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 5, 2023; via Zoom

Board Members Present: David Lough, President; Clark Lauren, Treasurer; Judy Mower, Secretary; Directors: Roger Barry, Peter Fanning, Patrick Gannon, Bob Pirollo, Catherine Sellers, Ken Shelin

Board Members Absent: Jaime Still, Vice President

Member Representatives Present: Jim Lampl, Jewel; Charlie Nagelschmidt, Broadway Promenade; Lisa Schmidt, Regency House; Susan Lehrer, Embassy House; Chip Parmelee, Beau Ciel; Janice Hetland, 101 Condominium; Curt Schantz, Rivo at Ringling

Associate Members Present: Annika Mantius, Burg Simpson

Guests Present: Kafi Benz, CONA

Meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.

Approval of Minutes of March 1 Meeting: Board approval was unanimous, on motion by Ken Shelin seconded by Bob Pirollo.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Clark Lauren reported a balance of \$11,537.91 in DSCA's bank account.

On Town Hall Expenses: David Lough and Jaime Still will handle any further actions that might be needed concerning the small grant given by the City for expenses of the April 4th Town Hall & Member meeting.

New Silver Associate Member: The Burns Square Boutique Hotel was unanimously approved as a new Silver Associate member, on motion made by Cathy Sellers and seconded by Peter Fanning.

City Update: David Lough reported that more than 50 people had attended the latest meeting of the Development Review Committee, out of concern about a proposed new condominium building at 1268 Palm Avenue that would be exceptionally tall (347+ feet). Part of the discussion was about the unusually large amount of interstitial space (vertical space between floors) being planned for the building. The answer given was that the space would allow for customization of plumbing and other utilities design, so that future condo owners could essentially design their own apartment layouts. David also reported that Monday's Commission meeting will include a workshop on the Fiscal Year 2024 budget and a discussion about policies and procedures concerning special events, among them being the notion that the request process to be used by a restaurant or hotel should include a "good citizen" proviso. He also reported that Jennifer Jorgenson has been hired as the City's Government Relations Manager, her responsibilities being government relations, special events, marketing, and assisting with grant applications.

Arts and Culture: Ken Shelin reported that the due date for submitting the implementation agreement for the new Sarasota Performing Arts Center will be extended to November 30, 2024. A provision of that agreement will be that the Van Wezel and the new hall will not compete.

Associates and Events: In Jamie Still's absence, David Lough thanked her for her work enabling the success of both the March 16th workshop and the Town Hall of the previous day. Patrick Gannon offered to help send out a survey of attendees that will include asking for their suggestions for future workshops as well as for town hall meetings. Including more interaction with City officials might be one such suggestion.

Greenspace: Patrick Gannon proposed meeting with the City's Parks & Rec. administrators to talk about the City's inventory of amenities in parks and in downtown areas, such as water fountains and other physical things. Another topic for discussion would be the current tree program – how to engage with the City on its “urban forestry” planning.

Homeless Committee: Peter Fanning spoke about the committee's March 15 meeting with the Suncoast Partnership's Manager of Housing as being particularly productive. After the next committee meeting on April 20, the committee may ask the DSCA board for approval of a plan for an educational program on homelessness.

Health & Safety: David Lough, Cathy Sellers, and Jaime Still met with the Sarasota Police Chief to again talk about the need for more officers. Part of the discussion concerned instituting a Community Watch program, enabling the reporting of possible unlawful activity – using a format like the “Click to Fix” program and cell phone app. Cathy Sellers and Jaime Still will look into this possibility.

Transportation: Roger Harris gave a brief update on the progress of the Gulfstream Roundabout, including that pedestrian safety features will be added this spring. He also reported that the City's garage elevators have been fixed.

Zoning: The Zoning Committee's next meeting on May 18 will be at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. The proposal for the One Park condominium project and attendant controversy surrounding it will come before the Planning Board on April 12. DSCA continues to take no position.

Bay Park Conservancy: The new CEO of Bay Park Conservancy is Stephanie Crockatt, who comes from the Buffalo Olmstead Park Conservancy. The City Commission approval of zoning for the park will result in Bay Park having the same zoning conditions as Centennial Park. The success of Phase I can be partly attributed to the Conservancy's excellent community outreach.

CCNA: A report summarizing the April 1 CCNA meeting had been previously sent to DSCA board members. David Lough spoke about the CCNA board's announcement that they are considering forming a committee to work with developers. No details about what the committee would do have yet been shared.

Rosemary District: David Lough reported that park supporters continue to expect the Rosemary Park's improvements to be completed by the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

The next DSCA board meeting will be May 3, at Broadway Promenade and via Zoom.