



**DSCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, October 4, 2023; Broadway Promenade and Zoom

**Board Members Present:** David Lough, Clark Lauren, Judy Mower, Peter Fanning, Patrick Gannon, Roger Barry, Bob Pirollo, Catherine Sellers, Ken Shelin

**Board Members Absent:** Jaime Sill

**Member Representatives Present:** Janice Hetland, 101 Condominium; Rosemary Krimbel, Alinari; Victor McTeer, BLVD Sarasota; Fran Lambert, Bay Plaza; Susan Lehrer, Embassy House; Bill Diehl, Condo on the Bay; Cheryl Walker, One Hundred Central Avenue; Dick Rivera, Savoy on Palm; and Lisa Schmitt; Regency House.

**Associate Members Present:** Paul Schott, ServPro of North Sarasota; Annika Mantius, Burg Simpson Eldredge; Fred Grady, Aldermam Oaks; Steve Shaw, Hotwire Communications; Kirstin Lynch, Cadence Bank.

**Guests:** Broxton Harvey, City Parking General Manager; Liz Alpert, Sarasota City Commission; Barbara Campo, Alinari; Jim Toale, 101 Condominium; Charlie Nagelschmidt, Broadway Promenade; Donna Ristow, Bayso.

The meeting was called to order by David Lough at 4:00, a quorum was declared.

The minutes of the September 6 meeting were approved (Patrick Gannon, Bib Pirollo)

Treasurer Clark Lauren reported the DSCA account holds \$2,542.30

**Guest Speaker:** Broxton Harvey, General Manager, City of Sarasota Parking Division.

David Lough introduced Mr. Harvey, whose impressive bio had been sent to board members before the meeting. Using slides that will be available on the DSCA website, he overviewed several proposals which he thinks would make parking operation downtown more efficient and create more turnover (freeing up parking spaces more frequently so that, overall, more parking is available for more people throughout the day). Other goals concern protection of ADA spaces for use by those who really need them, not blocking fire hydrants, enforcing no parking zones. At points during his presentation he showed various statistics he has been collecting (for example, numbers of cars parked at different times of day, numbers of citations for parking violations) and comparison statistics for nearby cities (St. Petersburg, Fort Myers, Bradenton, etc.) Some of the Sarasota numbers are these:

- 103 additional metered spaces will be added to those already installed along main corridors downtown
- There are 495 2-hr. and 3-hr. on-street parking spaces, plus others in various lots
- Garages hold another 598 spaces

After stating again that the main purpose would be to create more turnover (increasing revenue that goes into the General Fund being secondary), several of the proposals Mr. Harvey described would increase fees for parkers – hourly, daily, monthly – reduce allowed free parking spans of time in lots and garages and increase citations and fines for parking violations. Concerns were raised about how those increases in costs would affect people in low-income jobs, such as restaurant workers and retail workers – jobs which are already hard to fill. In all, the people most burdened by these price increases would be

the most vulnerable downtowners and those who commute downtown for low-paid work. Mr. Harvey was urged to keep parking affordable for lower wage employees. It was also pointed out that keeping costs low in garages helps make more on street parking spaces available – something pressed for by downtown businesses who depend on spaces being available for their customers.

Other proposals Mr. Harvey reviewed concerned using technology to replace use of coins in meters (requiring two full-time people to attend to removing coins) and garage attendants. Parking fees would be collected via cell phone apps, barcodes, LPR (license plate recognition), and the like, so that payments would all be via credit or debit cards. Mr. Harvey also recommends that a fee be added for use of city-owned electric vehicle chargers – the cost for which is around \$1,700 per month in utility costs and \$10,000 annually for equipment repairs.

During the discussion with the board after his presentation Mr. Harvey spoke about additional parking being made available, some of it metered, in Centennial Park, for use by boat launchers. He stressed that his presentation to DSCA's board is one of several activities he is undertaking to get more community input before finally presenting his proposals to the Commission. Other comments concerned benefits of urging people to use public transportation such as Bay Runner, increased pressure caused by a rapidly growing resident population downtown, concern about maintaining elevators in garages, and providing shuttle services for garage users.

**New Board Member, New Member Rep:**

- Victor McTeer, an attorney whose distinguished bio had been sent before the meeting, was unanimously elected to the DSCA board (David Lough nominating, Ken Shelin seconding). Mr. McTeer expressed his appreciation.
- The Q HOA was approved as a new Regular Member (Peter Fanning, Ken Shelin). Michael Marra to serve as their member representative.

**Meet With Other Downtown Organizations:** It was agreed that it would be a good idea to arrange a meeting with representatives of other downtown organizations such as DSEA (Downtown Sarasota Enrichment Association) and DID (Downtown Improvement District) to discuss elements of the parking proposals just presented.

**Preparation for CCNA October 7<sup>th</sup> Neighborhood Summit:** David Lough will represent DSCA at the CCNA meeting. He shared a summary of DSCA goals that he will talk about with other CCNA reps. In general those goals reflect the focus areas of DSCA committees. He will continue to refine what he has written in further preparation for Saturday's event.

**City Update:** no report

**Arts & Culture:** Ken Shelin brought up the topic of art in roundabouts – the cost for installation of chosen pieces meant to be displayed in these areas having proven to be so high that some people have suggested they be installed elsewhere. The opinion expressed by DSCA board members, with Commissioner Alpert adding her own comments, is that keeping those pieces in roundabouts is important, because as a collection they make a statement about Sarasota's being known for arts and culture. The Commission will hold a workshop on the matter.



**Associates & Events:** In Jaime Still's absence, David Lough reported that around 80 people have registered for the upcoming workshop that will address the effects on downtown of the rise in numbers of downtown residents. A special sponsor is being sought for the annual holiday party.

**Greenspace:** no report

**Homeless:** Peter Fanning reported that there would be a meeting with the police department the following day and he will have a report at the next meeting.

**Transportation:** Roger Barry stated that virtually all accidents in roundabouts were caused by driver error. The challenge is to educate people so they learn how to properly use them. He proposed a DSCA initiative to help do that. Other cities around the country are also increasingly building roundabouts and reaching out to some of them could help collect ideas. Data using zip codes could reveal relative numbers of accidents caused by residents versus visitors.

**Zoning:** no report

**Bay Park Conservancy:** Bob Pirollo reported that permits have been obtained for docks, a sea wall, and 3 dry docks at the park's water edge. Things are working well for boaters and for the restaurants. There's an effort to encourage park visitors to use public transportation or Uber instead of bringing cars to the park.

**Rosemary District:** David Lough reported about 100 people attended a Rosemary District Community meeting on 9/28 with three Commissioners attending.

**Associate Members:** Brief presentations were made by representatives of Burg Simpson, ServPro and Cadence Bank.

**Member Representatives:** In response to a question about how to be able to give more input into DSCA matters, David Lough encouraged those member reps present to join one of the DSCA committees. DSCA board members are also working on a sort of "job description" for member reps – essentially asking them to be liaisons between DSCA and their condo boards and fellow residents.

**Next Meeting:** November 1, 4 PM, same location.