



Community News Update

July 2023



President's Message

Dear Downtown Residents,

The summer heat seems to be universal this year, and not just in Sarasota. Just like the rising temperatures, our city has an increased number of important topics under consideration. Several of these have the potential to reshape the future of our downtown community for decades to come. As always, the DSCA board and our active committees are fully engaged in advocating for our collective interests. Here's a snapshot of some significant matters working their way through city hall:

- **Attainable Housing:** On August 7th, the City Commission will be considering an attainable housing density bonus proposal for Downtown Zone Districts. This policy proposal is the result of extensive work by the city's planning staff, which included valuable input from residents' community outreach sessions. DSCA has played an important role in providing feedback to the proposal, including championing for the inclusion of community workshops requirements for future downtown residential construction seeking bonus densities. While the proposal doesn't affect current building height limits, it does potentially multiply permitted dwelling unit densities up to four times.
- **Restaurants, Bars, and Nightclubs:** Our city is in the process of reviewing zoning text amendments for these establishments. The aim is to strike a balance between fostering a lively downtown atmosphere, appealing to both locals and visitors, while preserving Sarasota's distinctive character. The proposed amendments will be presented at an early August Development Review Committee meeting, and public comments will be possible at a future city commission meeting. Additionally, an updated sound ordinance is being prepared, which will to a degree complement these eating and drinking establishment zoning amendments.
- **Engineering Design Criteria Manual (EDCM):** We are actively involved in revising the EDCM, an essential document that sets guidelines for designing city-owned public spaces. This important document, now 20-years old, is badly in need of being revised. Updating the EDCM is vital to ensure our city's public spaces meet modern standards, including tree planting and sidewalk widths in public rights of way.
- **Fiscal Year '24 Budget:** Given the projected 20% population increase downtown over the next years and associated planning needs, this year's city budget is of heightened importance. With property assessments predicted to rise by about 13%, additional tax revenues will

assessments predicted to rise by about 15%, additional tax revenues will be available. The DSCA is advocating for these funds to be targeted for infrastructure improvements identified in the Sarasota in Motion, Transportation Master Plan like enhanced streetscapes. DSCA feels additional budget fund uses should be aimed to increase tree planting, the creation of advanced planning tools such as 3-D modeling and smart parking and transportation solutions. Simultaneously, DSCA fully supports maintaining appropriate reserves for future needs. City Commission Budget Workshops were held this week, and the budget is set for approval in September after final adjustments are drafted for commission approval.

Thank you for your continued support. As a community, we are actively engaged in addressing these important matters that affect us all. Our focus remains on representing the interests of downtown residents and working towards the best outcomes for our community.

Stay cool and stay involved!

David Lough

DSCA President

DavidLough1@gmail.com

DowntownSarasotaCondoAssoc.com

City Planning Update

FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget

The City has published a preliminary draft of the budget for Oct. 1 2023 thru Sep 30 2024 (FY-2024). The budget identifies the multiple channels of tax revenue, along with the many categories of expenses. Residents are encouraged to review the preliminary City FY-2024 budget [here](#).

[Commissioners keep preliminary millage rate the same, increase level of service](#) The City Commission set the preliminary operating millage rate at 3.0000 mills on Tuesday for the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget, the same millage rate as the current fiscal year. The budget represents Commissioners' ongoing commitment to serve as responsible fiscal stewards of public dollars.

EDCM 2023 Update

The community was invited to learn about the Engineering Design Criteria Manual (EDCM) 2023 update and participate in break-out sessions by topic during a [public meeting](#) July 19.

The EDCM is a guide that provides established design standards for roads, trails, sidewalks and other infrastructure within the right-of-way, and is used by City of Sarasota staff as well as private sector engineers and developers.

During the meeting, City transportation and engineering staff provided a presentation on the [final draft of the EDCM 2023 update](#), which includes revisions to chapters on streetscape, street design, stormwater and erosion, subdivision regulation and solid waste.

Several DSCA board directors attended and provided preliminary comments. Residents should review the new draft if they are interested in a more walkable greater downtown neighborhood. This includes prioritizing for pedestrian safety, including safely shaded from direct sun year-round.

Public outreach for the EDCM 2023 update started in November 2022. Four community outreach events have been held and two online surveys conducted. A third survey is open until July 28 and can be [completed online](#).

Additional information about the EDCM 2023 update is available at www.SarasotaFL.gov/government/edcm. Questions should be directed to City Engineer [Nik Patel](#) or Chief Transportation Planner [Alvimarie Corales](#).

Arts and Cultural

City staff introduced its proposed Public Art Plan at an open house on May 3rd. Mary Davis Wallace, Public Art Lead for the Development Department put the 100 page plan together. The City Commission will review and consider its adoption at an **August 21** Commission meeting. It is a 7 year plan that is available on line for review and comment at <https://www.sarasotafl.gov/our-city/public-art>. Please send any questions or comments to publicart@sarasotafl.gov.

The mission of the plan is to create an inclusive and equitable plan serving all forms of public art through an accessible and dependable process. That process will reflect community priorities with a roadmap to fulfill those priorities. Staff will create a guide for core values which the arts and cultural methodology will promote, enhance and advance.

The Public Art Plan is scheduled to be presented to the City Commission on August 21.

Van Wezel Purple Ribbon Task Force

Seven Ad Hoc Van Wezel Purple Ribbon Committee members selected by City Commissioners



The new seven-member committee will study financially sustainable options, as well as the use, purpose, and lease of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.

Those chosen, along with the selection criteria, include:

- 2 - residents of the City of Sarasota; (Melissa Gissinger, Selma Goker Wilson)
- 1 - expertise in historical preservation; (Morris Hylton III)
- 1 - financial expertise in the field of the performing arts; (David Rovine)
- 1 - expertise in architecture, design of performing arts center, reuse of large public structures and buildings; (Charles Cosler)
- 1 - expertise in climate adaptation, FEMA, and flood plains; (Robert Bunting)
- 1 - expertise in civil structural engineering; (Lee-en Chung)

The City of Sarasota and the Sarasota Performing Arts Center Foundation entered into an agreement in April 2022 to establish and define responsibilities for the planning, financing, design, and construction of a new performing arts center to be located at The Bay Park.

Now that the committee has been appointed, they have two years to provide recommendations to the City Commission. Additional resources can be found at: <http://www.PerformingArtsFoundation.org>

SRQ reports record growth in June



Article Courtesy of WWSB

Last month, 309,127 passengers traveled through the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport. It's an increase of 7 percent since June 2022.

The 12-month activity through June 2023 totals 4,144,917 passengers, a 9% increase compared to 3,795,854 passengers for the 12 months through June 2022.

The first half of calendar year 2023 has seen a 14% increase in passenger traffic over the same period in 2022.

"The Sarasota Bradenton International Airport continues to trend in exponential growth. We are taking initiative to ensure our forward progress on the multitude of construction projects currently underway. As airlines publish holiday flight schedules we look forward to an increase in available service as compared to 2022," stated Rick Piccolo, President, CEO of the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport.



Gulfstream Roundabout

Following the completion of the US 41 and Gulfstream Roundabout construction earlier this month, FDOT's landscaping contractor will now begin the final landscaping and irrigation. Always a pleasure to see the continued beautification of our city.

The FDOT team continues to strive to minimize interruptions so lane closures will be limited to overnight hours. Noise and light from landscaping equipment is possible and do be alert for workers in the area. Questions, please contact: Barbara Catlin, Community Outreach Manager, FDOT Sarasota | Manatee Operations Center at: Call or text: 941-302-5048
Email: Barbara.Catlin@dot.state.fl.us

For those interested, you can watch progress live on a webcam.

[Marina Tower Roof \(Marina Tower Roof\)_|_Nest](#)

* Note - once the link loads, hover over the image and click on the play (>) button. [READ MORE on the Project Overview](#)

Rosemary District

Nancy's BBQ Moving Back to Downtown Sarasota



Nancy's BBQ is officially moving back to downtown Sarasota, where it all began for them 19 years ago. With plans to be open every day, full menu, plenty of seating, a space for private events, catering services and a full bar. New location: 1525 4th St, in the Rosemary District, next to [Food+Beer](#) and adjacent to [Station 400 Sarasota](#). OPENING DATE coming later this month! Stay tuned in to their website and social channels for an update.
NancysBarBQ.com | FB @NancysBBQ

DSCA Board June Wrap Up

As has been the recent practice, the 7/5 DSCA Board meeting was held in hybrid fashion, both in person at the Broadway Promenade Club Room and via Zoom. Following are links to the full Board meeting and guest speaker presentation.

Guest Speaker: Lucia Panica, Development Services Director, City of Sarasota
Myra Schwarz, Development Services General Manager, City of Sarasota

- View Meeting Video [HERE](#) - DSCA Board Meeting 2023-07-05
 - View Speaker Video [HERE](#)
 - View Presentation Slides [HERE](#)
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DSCA Upcoming Events

DSCA Board Meeting

DSCA Board Meeting | August 2, 2023 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 p.m. held via Zoom & Broadway Promenade, 1064 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236



Guest Speaker: Liz Alpert, Vice Mayor, City of Sarasota Commission

[Register](#)

Liz Alpert is a family law attorney in Sarasota, Florida. She has been practicing in Sarasota since her admission to the Florida Bar in September 2006. Liz graduated from Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida in December 2005.

Liz grew up the oldest of eight children. Her father was a long-distance truck driver and her mother stayed at home to raise the children. Neither of Liz's parents attended college. But, that didn't stop Liz—she was determined to get her college degree. While raising three daughters, she achieved her goal after taking classes on and off for more than 17 years. Liz graduated summa cum laude from the University of South Florida in 1995. Read more [here](#).

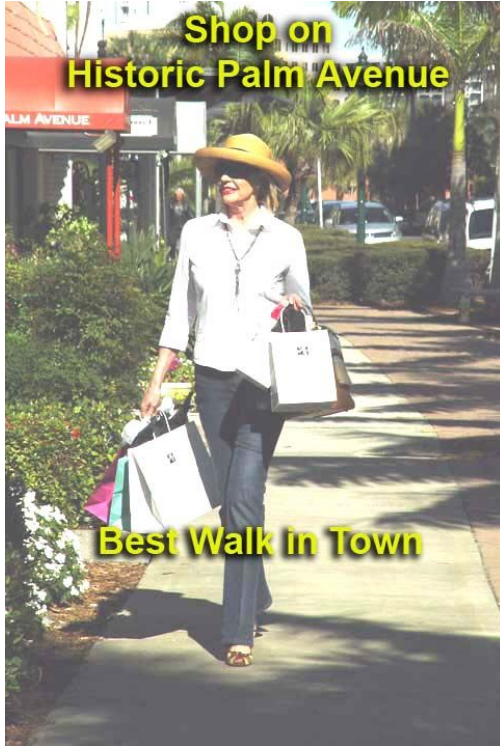
DSCA Board Meetings are for Board Directors, with designated Condo Member Representatives, Liaison Association Representatives and invited Guests attending as observers. Contact President, David Lough (760) 497-9230, if you wish to be invited.

Associate Member Events

Associate Members - Post your event on our DSCA Calendar to share with the community!

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

Upcoming Community Events



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S STROLL | August 4, 6-9 p.m. | Palm Avenue hosts a monthly Art Walk. Browse the fine art galleries, jewelers, and restaurants of Palm Avenue while enjoying dancing, live music, and refreshments. This has been one of the traditional ongoing monthly events in Sarasota for many years. Visit [Palm Avenue in Downtown Sarasota for more details.](#)



VAN WEZEL FRIDAY FEST | Aug 11, Sept 22 - Friday Fest, the free, outdoor summertime concert series at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall returns this year with an exciting lineup of bands who will bring the audience to their feet! The events run from 5-9 p.m. and are located on the lawn of the Van Wezel.

The excitement continues with a great lineup of local bands:

- August 11: TEN-76
- September 22: Jah Movement

Bring blankets or lawn chairs, take in the music and sunset, and enjoy food and beverage from local vendors. Bringing in food, drinks and coolers from outside Friday Fest is prohibited. For additional information, visit VanWezel.org.

Check out the latest news and events happening in the Rosemary District, a blend of modern culture, food and activities you can schedule your whole day around.

[Click here to view Rosemary District Events](#)

The Bay Park | Calendar of Events

Sarasota's bayfront is an iconic, public destination that welcomes the diversity of Sarasota, enhances our status as a cultural capital and serves as a venue for multi-generational, inter-neighborhood, broad-based enjoyment of our bayfront.

[View the updates from The Bay Park Conservancy.](#)

[View The Bay Park - Calendar of Events](#)

If you missed any of our newsletters [Click here](#) to view past issues to share with your condo community

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PO Box 3136, Sarasota, FL 34230
1-941-357-6224, <https://downtownsarasotacondoassoc.com/>