



PLATINUM ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

We encourage you to support these area businesses who help support the DSCA through workshops, professional services and discounts.



President's Message

Wow, it's a busy time of the year., and not just on the roads and in trying to get reservations at a restaurant. Things remain busy at City Hall too. To get some sense of the array of topics under discussion you might from time to time take a look at the "Meetings/Agendas/Video" section at www.sarasotafl.gov.

With all that's going on there is not a day, sometimes an hour, that goes by that a DSCA board member or one of our committee members is not at City Hall, meeting with city staff or commissioners or otherwise in communication with city officials.

Your DSCA Board makes a concerted effort to follow, understand and influence matters of importance to our downtown members. We're involved in a host of efforts, from proposals for increasing building density in the downtown area to foster the development of more attainable housing to aiming to influence plans for certain new residential projects to add canopy trees.

On the money front DSCA follows important new capital improvement programs projects including Boulevard of the Arts, 10th, Main Street Streetscape efforts and Ringling Trail improvements. Just last week DSCA provided help to city staff by gathering 23 letters of support for an important Department of Transportation grant being sought by the City. The list goes on.

Another important element to DSCA work is our board meeting, guest

To help follow the many matters of interest and seek meaningful input from members, our DSCA board is happy to see some familiar faces of condo representatives at our meetings, because they add a lot to the discussion. They raise concerns or share ideas being talked about at their own condo board meetings, or with their condo neighbors. Their buildings, therefore, are getting the most benefit out of DSCA membership because those representatives take back and share what they've learned. Presumably whatever group - condo board or HOA board or whoever - made the decision to have their building join DSCA did so because they care about the issues DSCA addresses, and want to lend their support, but also because there's a return on investment for them and the residents they serve.

Ideally, a member representative comes to DSCA board meetings to engage in two-way communication. Information gets exchanged and we all learn together, and we all contribute to making downtown Sarasota a better place to live, work, and play. Only problem, actually an opportunity - there are at times, not enough of you at our meetings. So - this message is for you, member representatives we don't see so often - please think about that liaison role we would like for you to play, and join us at 4 PM, first Wednesday of the month, at Broadway Promenade. Your perspective and voice are needed and welcome. Thank you all for your DSCA participation.

speaker program. During the last years we've had guest speakers including City Manager Brown, Police Chief Rex Trouche, Planning Director Steve Cover, Chamber of Commerce Heather Kaster; Chief City Engineer Nik Patel....as members of our Arts & Cultural community, Cheryl Mendelsen and Brendon Regan. Videos of these guest speakers' presentations are posted on the DSCA website.

David Lough

DSCA President

DavidLough1@gmail.comDowntownSarasotaCondoAssoc.com

Worse than a hurricane – The Perfect Storm of Insurance Crisis and Government Regulation!

Register Now - Limited Seating

A LIVE Workshop
brought to you by:



The Exploding Costs of Living in Paradise!

Mitigating the Pain of Increasing Condo Fees

DSCA
PLATINUM ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS



Thursday, March 16th, 2023

4:00pm - 7:00pm presentation

at Goewey Hall

(Church of the Redeemer's Robinson Center)

222 S Palm Ave Ste B, Sarasota, FL 34236

Residents are increasingly feeling the pinch when it comes to condo living. Do you find yourselves asking what can be done about it? Is there anything residents can do to help control and manage their rising insurance costs? Bring your questions and concerns to this comprehensive discussion!

MODERATED BY:

Darrin Caldwell | Director of Marketing and Sales
WrightWay Emergency Services

PANELISTS:

Michael Angers | Brown & Brown Insurance
Patricia Staebler | Staebler Appraisal and Consulting
Cindy Hill, Esq. | Tannenbaum Lemole & Hill
Stephanie Burtwell | Lighthouse Property Management

Thursday, March 16th, 2023

4:00pm - 4:30pm **Check-in and meet the sponsors**

4:30pm - 6:00pm **Moderator and panelists discussion**

6:00pm - 7:00pm **Refreshments and mingling**

Cost: \$10 - Members, \$15 - Non-Members

*** PARKING AVAILABLE ON LOCATION AND ON GULFSTREAM AVENUE**

Attainable Housing

As part of DSCA's goal of being actively involved in and providing input to the Attainable Housing discussion, eight DSCA board members and other downtown residents met with city staff on 2/15. This is the second, downtown focused meeting the DSCA 'zoning committee' has had with city planning staff, the goal being to provide "meaningful neighborhood input" as part of the attainable housing policy development process.

Affordable/attainable housing zoning text amendments will be the subject of Town Hall meetings, the next one to occur on March 1; the Commission gave the green light to allowing four times the current 50-unit per acre maximum for building projects in the downtown zone.

Below is the link to the Zoom recording of the 2/15 City staff presentation to DSCA on Attainable Housing Density Bonus plans.

[DSCA Zoning Committee Meeting with City of Sarasota - Attainable Housing](#)

[Download slides here - City / DSCA AttainableHousingPresentation-20230215](#)

[Current Attainable Housing Initiative](#)

Committee Assistance Needed

The Downtown Sarasota Condo Association (DSCA) would like to ask its members to consider joining one of the committees below. Committee participation allows you the opportunity to support your community, stay informed, and help to facilitate change; therefore, having a positive impact on many levels.

- **Homeless Committee** – This committee is targeted to work with the City of Sarasota staff and other local organizations to support efforts to reduce the homeless populations in Sarasota.
- **Greenspace Committee** – This committee focus is on issues related to green spaces, public parks, and public art in downtown Sarasota.
- **Transportation Committee** – This committee's focus is on issues related to multi-modal transportation, traffic, signage, and pedestrian access in downtown Sarasota.
- **Health & Safety Committee** – This committee focus is on programs to enhance downtown residents' health and safety and works closely with the Sarasota Police Department and any other organizations to affect these programs.
- **Zoning Code Committee** – This committee focus is on programs to work with the DSCA Member condominiums, City of Sarasota staff, and other local organizations to review experiences with the Zoning Code as it relates to Land Development Applications and the impacts of Administrative Review and Public Hearing processes.
- **Associate & Events Committee** – This committee's focus is to plan and organize educational forums and other related events to address key issues important to our members, and to gain support of said events and provide exposure for Associate Member services.
- **Arts & Cultural Committee** – This committee is formed to work with DSCA Member organizations, the Downtown Sarasota residents, City of Sarasota staff and other local arts organizations to encourage residents and businesses to take an interest in, engage in the public discussion of such activities, collaborate on, and take public positions on changes and new projects in the arts.

If you would like to join one of the above committees, or would like additional information, please email: downtownsarasotacondoassoc@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Getting Around



Photos courtesy of City of Sarasota

Bay Runner Trolley Update

The Bay Runner continues to grow in popularity! It had its highest monthly ridership last month (January 2023) with 16,006 passengers, as shared on the [City's social media pages](#) recently.

Two trolleys run regularly:

8 a.m. to 10 a.m. - one trolley (30 minute frequency approximately – depending upon ridership and traffic conditions)

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. - two trolleys (20-30 minute frequency approximately)

8 p.m. to midnight: one trolley (30 minute frequency)

A route map is [available here](#).



Gulfstream Roundabout Webcam

Intermittent work on the roundabout area continues. This work is a moving target. Week by week things are improving.

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

NOTE - once the link loads, hover over the image and click on the play (>) button.



SRQ Airport

Breeze Airways adding four nonstop Florida flights from T.F. Green. Here's where they're flying. Breeze Airways will have four new nonstop flights from Rhode Island to four Florida cities starting this summer, the budget carrier said Tuesday. The new Breeze Airway nonstop flights from Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport will go to Tampa, Orlando, Fort Myers and Sarasota-Bradenton. Breeze Airways is in the process of building a hub at T.F. Green. [Click here to read more.](#)

DSCA Board February Wrap Up

As has been the recent practice, the 2/1 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 presentation by, Marlon Brown, City Manager, City of Sarasota

[View Meeting Video HERE](#) - DSCA Board Meeting 2023-02-01

[View Speaker Video HERE](#) - Marlon Brown, City Manager, City of Sarasota

Some of City Manager's Brown's comments included:

- Restoration of Bobby Jones golf course, to reopen this fall, and conservation of 160 acres of greenspace, in partnership with Sarasota County.

- Progress on noise abatement downtown from late night/early morning music venues and muscle cars – working with other cities to refine the City's noise ordinance to address in particular bass decibel levels that are hard to measure.

- Sarasota Performing Arts Center under discussion by the Commission – among next steps will be assessment of cost elements of the financial plan, operational plan, and business plan. A Blue Ribbon Committee will address stabilizing the Van Wezel building, physically and financially, and planning for its reuse.

- Payne Park: discussion about leased use of various Payne Park venues, including the auditorium, continues. Granting of any lease for more than ten years requires a 4-1 vote of Commission members. More tennis courts in Payne Park will be built by the school district for use by the school next door, but those courts will be open to the public after school hours.

- Also under discussion are regulations concerning special events – allowed decibel levels, number of people, time limits, etc. These discussions exclude events such as the Farmer's Market which meet regularly and have done so for some time.

- The Pubic Art Master Plan is being implemented and a number of art pieces are now on display at City Hall.

- Standards are being revisited to assure that the problem of Hotel Housing is addressed City-wide, including the keys, downtown, and downtown side of the Bay, so that codes and standards are clarified and enforced.

- The Commission has approved extending until March 31st the use of street parking spaces for dining by downtown restaurants (more than 20 originally but the number is down to 11 or 12, and they are being charged \$25 per day per space). Research is being done to find out what other cities are doing about the issues related to allowing on-street dining.

- To address the problem of homeless people sometimes blocking sidewalks, the City is trying to see if the existing ordinance, along with restraining police

the city is trying to see if the existing ordinances, along with retraining police officers, will work to alleviate the problem without having to create any new "sit/lie" ordinance.

· Parking staff are looking at allowing some exceptions to the usual "front in" parking requirement, which allows parking staff to see license plates without getting out of their vehicles. In certain sections of Gulfstream Avenue "back in" parking may be safer.

DSCA Upcoming Events

DSCA Board Meeting

[DSCA Board Meeting | March 1, 2023 | 4:00 PM - 5:30 p.m.](#) held via Zoom & Broadway Promenade, 1064 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

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

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR EVENT](#)

Upcoming Community Events

Fresh Friday's

SIP-SHOP-STROLL | Downtown Sarasota, Lemon Ave and Main Street | March 3rd, 5-8 p.m. The Sarasota Downtown Merchants First Friday event runs along the 1400, 1500, 1600 blocks of Main Street, Palm Ave., 1st & 2nd Street. The event is open to the public. Stroll trendy fashion boutiques, art galleries, experience wine tastings, and live music throughout Main Street. Tourists and locals, even the occasional celebrity, enjoy caricatures as the perfect souvenir, something hand-drawn and one of a kind. Visit DestinationDowntownSarasota.com to learn more.

A TASTE OF PALM AVENUE | Gallery Walks on Palm Avenue March 3rd 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.](#)

NEIGHBORS & NEWCOMERS | State Street | Friday, March 3rd, 7-10 p.m. The Downtown Improvement District invites you, your friends, and all newcomers to the heart of downtown for the return of NEIGHBORS & NEWCOMERS! Like last year's event, this year's theme is all about the tropical vibes and guests are encouraged to slip on their best tropical shirts, beachwear and flip-flops. The March block party stays on State Street with a new headliner, The Alan Grant Band. A staple of the downtown Sarasota music scene, the band features some of the best musicians and guest vocalists in the region. Come early for your free signature giveaways, grab a bite or beverage from one of our hospitality partners, play a couple rounds of cornhole or Jenga, and dance the night away beneath the stars. [Click here for more details.](#)

Rosemary District

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 Conservancy

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.

[Click to view the updates from The Bay Park Conservancy](#)

[Click to view The Bay Park - Calendar of Events](#)

We Are Downtown Sarasota Residents partnering with Businesses!

Are your neighbors receiving our emails? **Help your neighbors stay connected and forward this email to downtown condo residents!** Click here to [subscribe here](#).

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