



## DSCA Annual Members Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Sarasota Church of the Redeemer's Goewey Hall

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

David Lough called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. A quorum of DSCA members was established because 19 of 36 member condos had sent in their proxies. The official business done at the meeting was to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and the slate of officers and directors. The list above denotes names and officer positions of members of the DSCA board who were unanimously elected. (Moved by Bob Pirollo, seconded by Ken Selin)

In the remaining time before the 5 PM start of the Town Hall meeting, David Lough welcomed those attending and invited them to help celebrate DSCA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the reception to follow the Town Hall. He then overviewed some of the statistics concerning Sarasota's downtown district and issues of current concern to downtown residents that are the focus of DSCA's advocacy work. A few **highlights of David Lough's presentation** are as follows:

- Downtown's 1.6 to 1.7 square miles contains around 12,000 people "in season", that number predicted to be at around 15,000 by 2030 – amounting to 20-22% of the City's population.
- 12,000 new housing units are under construction, with two or three additional projects about to start construction within weeks. Of particular concern presently is the proposed 14-unit condominium proposed for North Palm Avenue that, if approved, will set a new record for building height (347') in its immediate area.
- Although the number of unit sales has been trending down, prices have doubled since 2016 – prices in excess of \$1 million have become common.
- Challenges DSCA sees ahead include the prospect of other taller buildings, threats to pedestrian safety due to sidewalk closings and other conditions caused by so much construction happening at the same time, need for more shade trees as part of the streetscape, and sustaining meaningful resident input into City Government planning for more housing, including affordable/attainable housing.
- Of particular concern are changes being made to the City's *Engineering Design Criterion Manual*, which governs standards for the "public amenities spaces" between sidewalk and street edge, in the middle of roundabouts, or in parks - dictating requirements for landscaping, public art, seating, and so forth. For example, DSCA advocates for a 14' building set back standard to replace the current 0-5', and for the planting of canopy trees rather than palms within streetscapes.
- DSCA shares concerns with the other members of CCNA – the Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations - with representatives from around 30 different areas of the city.
- DSCA has advocated successfully for improvements at Rosemary Park and Bay Park, and for streetscapes and "complete street" design elements of Fruitville Road, Main Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and Boulevard of the Arts.



- DSCA volunteers regularly attend Planning Board and Commission meetings and communicate their observations during board meetings, and through the DSCA newsletter and website.
- DSCA regularly hosts educational workshops covering matters of concern to condo boards and other organizations that work with downtown homeowners, the most recent one being about insurance challenges. An October workshop is in the planning stages.
- DSCA has successfully advocated for the hiring of more police officers. Ten have recently been added to the force and 17 are in training, amounting to a 20% increase in number of officers who will be available to patrol downtown streets.

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