



DSCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 6, 2023; Broadway Promenade and Zoom

Board Members Present: David Lough, Jaime Sill, Clark Lauren, Judy Mower, Peter Fanning, Patrick Gannon, Catherine Sellers, Ken Shelin

Board Members Absent: Roger Barry, Bob Pirollo, Victor McTeer

Member Representatives Present: Jim Toale, 101 Condominium; Susan Lehrer, Embassy House; Lisa Schmitt, Regency House; Cheryl Walker, One Hundred Central; Tony Britt, San Marco; Christine Schlesinger, Condo on the Bay; Irving Ross, Bay Plaza; Jim Lampi, Jewel; Peter Blanton, Ritz Carlton Residences, Sarasota Quay; Janice Hetland, 101 Condominium; Rosemary Krimbel, Alinari;

Associate Members Present: Paul Schott, ServPro of North Sarasota; Fred Grady, Aldermam Oaks; Steve Shaw, Hotwire Communications; Michele Sidasky, City National Bank; Annika Mantius, Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh Jardine; Dennis McSweeney, Smart Water Protection; Jeevaani Selvarajah, Sunshine Private Wealth; Terry Phelps, Socotec (Forge Engineering); Paul Schott, ServPro of North Sarasota

Guests: Robert 'Nik' Walker, Peter Anderson, and Louise Coogan of the Sarasota Jazz Club; other guests, including several public officials, invited by board members to attend the post meeting holiday party.

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

The minutes of the November 1 meeting were approved (Ken Shelin, Cathy Sellers)

Treasurer Clark Lauren reported the DSCA bank account holds \$1,545.57.

Approval of 2024 Fee Schedule and Budget: Dues for members and affiliates will be raised slightly for the first time in several years. Board approved the new fees schedule (Peter Fanning, Ken Shelin). Board also approved the 2024 budget (Patrick Gannon, Ken Shelin).

Presentation by Sarasota Jazz Club: Nik Walker, Jazz Club President, spoke about the history of the club. Board member Peter Anderson described current activities and offerings of the club, and board member Louise Coogan spoke about the youth education and scholarship programs supported by the Club's philanthropy. <https://jazzclubsarasota.org/> is a link to the Club's website. Highlights of their presentations are as follows:

- The club was established in the late 70's by Hal Davis, who had retired to Sarasota after a career that included doing publicity for big bands.
- Mission: "Sarasota Jazz Club is dedicated since 1980 to preserving and promoting jazz, America's original musical art form."
- At one point the club had the biggest roster of members of any club in the country. Members get 20% off on event tickets. See website to become a member.
- Weekly performances by local musicians: Jazz at Two, Unitarian Universalist Church, most Fridays, 2 PM; Jazz Thursdays at Sarasota Art Museum, 5:30 – 8:00 PM; Monday Night Cabaret, Florida Studio Theater, 7:30 PM; Monday Jazz Jam SRQ, 5:30-7:00 PM, Selby Library.

- Next Year's Jazz Festival March 17 – 23, Municipal Auditorium and other locations.
- The Club is looking for new office space (4-600 ft) and the goal is to eventually have its own facility for performance, practice, and storage.
- Local jazz musicians who are club members work with several high schools in the area, and youth jazz bands compete for prizes and are invited to perform at major club events.
- Jazz Links is a program in partnership with West Coast Black Theatre Troup to work with African American youth interested in jazz.
- The scholarship fund for college bound students awards around \$30,000 per year.

New Gold Associate Member: After a presentation by its manager, Tammy Hackney, Bird Key Yacht Club was approved as a new associate member (Jaime Still, Ken Shelin).

OLD Business

City Parking Plan: There will be a workshop to present the City's plan for public parking on January 8. Opportunity for public comment will follow. Proposed changes will affect downtown and St. Armands.

Website Update: Over 50% of receivers opened the latest DSCA e-newsletter. Formerly, a separate, members-only website was maintained, along with the main DSCA public website, but to save costs and be more efficient, the two websites have been integrated. Other improvements will allow added communications functions, including the ability for users to ask questions.

President's Report: Nothing to add to other reports to be made later in the meeting.

City Update: Cathy Sellers, No report.

Arts & Culture: Ken Shelin reported that the ad hoc Van Wezel Purple Ribbon committee will increase the scope of the science and engineering study to look at the interior water damage within walls and below floors. Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation has a new CEO, Tania Castroverde Moskalenko, who will start on February 5. The Arts & Cultural Alliance's assessment of the local financial impact of the arts estimates \$342 million annually from performances, shows, exhibits, etc., attracting 2.3 million attendees, supporting 5200 jobs.

Associates & Events: Jaime Still reported that a March workshop is in the planning stages, with no specific date set as yet. She will have more information in January.

Greenspace: Patrick Gannon referenced the November 13 workshop that addressed proposed changes to the Engineering Design Criteria Manual and commented on the problem with criteria for shade tree spacing, which is linked to the speed of passing cars rather than presence of pedestrians.

Homeless: Peter Fanning reported on progress of the downtown City Watch program, which now has volunteers walking streets at all hours and using a phone app to report problems, such as illegal parking, graffiti, presence of homeless people, safety issues, "fix it" issues. When real or possible criminal behavior is spotted, they call 911. One approach to recruiting volunteers is for Ken and other organizers to do presentations about the Watch program to residents of downtown condos, and Ken is asking condo members to consider setting up such opportunities.

He also reported that a recent effort to find families of homeless people resulted in reuniting 21 people with their families.

Transportation: A recent workshop concerned the Boulevard of the Arts & 10th street project. The drawings are around 60% complete and work should commence around May.

Zoning: The controversies continue around establishing clear definitions of different kinds of establishments that serve alcohol and sometimes (or often) also become entertainment venues – creating problem levels of noise and other “disturbing the peace” sorts of issues.

Bay Park Conservancy: Phase 2 (\$65 million) of the Bay Park Conservancy Master Plan was approved.

CCNA: Vice Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch received CCNA's annual Neighborhood Award. Announced at the Saturday CCNA board meeting – the grand opening celebration of the Bobby Jones Golf Club and Nature Park is set for Dec. 15.

Rosemary District: Work on the park has begun.

Associate News: Brief presentations were made by Platinum Level representatives of Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh Jardine; Fision / Hotwire Communications; ServPro of North Sarasota; Socotec; CORE Marketing Solutions. Gold Level presentations were made representative of Alderman Oaks; City National Bank; Smart Water Protection.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20

Next Board Meeting: January 3, 2024, same time and place