



DSCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Sep. 7, 2022

Broadway Promenade and Zoom

Board Members Present: David Lough, Clark Lauren, Jamie Still, Bob Pirollo, Catherine Sellers, Patrick Gannon, Peter Fanning, and Judy Mower (Zoom). **Absent:** Roger Barry.

Member Representatives Present: Rosemary Krimbel, Alinari; Fran Lambert, Bay Plaza; Mark Grant, BLVD Sarasota; Susan Lehrer, Embassy House; Jim Lampl, Jewel; David Lyons, Ted Wilson, Regency House; Peter Blanton, Ritz-Carlton Residences Sarasota-Quay; Steve Mannik, Royal St. Andrew; Charlie Nagelschmidt, Broadway Promenade; Bill Diehl, Condo on the Bay; Shari Bunks Geller, Beau Ciel.

Associate Members Present: Samantha Spano, Brown & Brown; Donna McCombe, Cadence Bank; Terry Phelps, Socotec; Annika Mantius, Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh Jardine; Brandon Vermillion, Debbie Shiffie and Paul; Servpro North Sarasota. Steve Shaw, Hotwire Communications; Kristin Fourie, CORE Marketing Solutions; Rebecca Cioci, Lighthouse Property Management; Don Fitts, Cornerstone Life Care.

Guests Present: Doug Jeffcoat, Director of Public Works, City of Sarasota; Kafi Benz, CONA; Tony Joseph, Bay Plaza.

1. Meeting called to order by Board President David Lough at 4 pm. Quorum established.
2. Minutes of June 1st Board Meeting approved (Fanning/Sellers)
3. Treasurer's Report: C. Lauren: Seacoast Bank checking account balance: \$9,083.98 in DSCA bank account.
4. Guest Speaker: **Doug Jeffcoat**, Public Works Director, City of Sarasota. Mr. Jeffcoat has been with city government for 27 years, ten in his current position. His presentation overviewed three important issues that will face the city and its residents over the next few years. Questions that followed elicited more detail.
 - a. County penny sales tax vote on Nov. 8 (last approved 15 years ago): Income (around \$190 million) from that tax plays a big part in funding of numerous environmental and park improvement projects and also provides for such basics as police vehicles. City officials like Mr. Jeffcoat cannot directly advocate for public support – they can only educate - therefore organizations such as DSCA, which is fully supportive of the local benefits of the Penny Sales Tax, must do the advocating. The Sarasota Community Foundation has relayed to many such organizations that the work of advocacy is important and encourages net all to do whatever can be done to facilitate voter approval of the penny tax. The County's website has more information. Sarasota County, FL | Home (scgov.net)
 - b. Smart City Initiative: DPS, working with the State Department of Transportation, is using a \$500,000 federal grant matched by one million in local funds to order, for installation at fifteen intersections throughout the city, detectors that will work with the technology in newer vehicles. Cameras currently installed at intersections are subject to fogging

after storms and are not being replaced quickly enough when roads are widened, creating blind spots. Those replacement cameras, and the new detectors to come, will give the city the ability to monitor and manage traffic flow (including bicycles, pedestrians, etc.) at busy intersections. Mr. Jeffcoat further commented in response to follow up questions from board members that transportation planning for the future must take into account accommodations for different kinds of vehicles – scooters, bicycles, etc. – plus demand for six-to-ten-foot-wide sidewalks, landscaping, and pedestrian rights of way. Yet, the city has no open land to build on. He summarized that “it’s a matter of balance” – doing as much as possible to address the needs of every constituency.

- c. Update of Engineering Design Criteria Manual (EDCM): These standards for developers and builders apply to the City’s right-of-way areas throughout downtown and residential neighborhoods. Via a year-long process during which there will be workshops and other opportunities for public comment, the standards will be updated and given much more clarity so that developers and homeowners will be able to see exactly what their responsibilities are. The biggest area of need for understanding concerns “what’s underneath” – utility lines, sewer pipes, wastewater drains etc. – that have to be factored in when people want to change what’s “on top” (e.g. plant a shade tree). In response to being asked how DSCA might be able to help, Mr. Jeffcoat explained that the Kittelson Company <https://www.kittelson.com/> has been hired to develop and execute a public education process that will feature focus groups and other opportunities for public participation. When finished, the revised manual will go to the City Commission for approval.
- d. Additional issues raised during questioning:
- Environmental issues - possible sea level rise and increasing occurrence of red tides.
 - The need for affordable housing is particularly dire. The City has open positions (e.g. concrete and asphalt workers and other trades, plus mid-managers and professionals) remaining unfilled after more than a year. The high cost of living in Sarasota has made recruiting, and retaining, human resources very difficult, a problem that faces every government agency.
 - Maintenance of transportation infrastructure, funded by the gasoline tax which hasn’t changed in many years, has run \$600 thousand over budget every year since 2005.
 - The Van Wezel structure is somewhat under threat from sea level rise, but is even more affected by stronger wave action during increasingly intense winter storms.
 - One of the biggest issues for City utilities is dealing with sewage, carried underground in pipes that, overall, are in good condition, but in some instances were improperly installed – resulting in some recent occurrences of backups or overflows.
 - Competition and timing for grants – it takes a year or more to secure funds when grants are won for projects, and it requires using our own, and not “someone else’s” dollars to pay for costs before those funds arrive. Competing for a state or federal grant



can be as long as a five-year process, and many of those grants must be matched by local funds.

- The County (not City) has full responsibility for wastewater disposal, maintenance of drains, etc. City and County engineers are in dialogue and negotiations have begun.

5. **New Gold Member:** Hotwire Communications was approved by unanimous vote (moved Shellin/Seller) seconded by Cathy Sellers) and welcomed. <https://hotwirecommunications.com/> The company (around 1500 employees in 22 sites) serves HOAs and condo associations, installing fiberoptic cables and networks in new buildings or retrofitting them, e.g. replacing cables made of copper, in older ones.

Old Business:

6. **City Comprehensive Plan Progress Update:** Patrick Gannon summarized the status of the comprehensive plan changes/amendments currently under review, inclusionary zoning being part of those. The Planning Department intends to move forward with the approval process at the September 19th City Commission meeting. The formerly standard practices of 3 publicizing the agenda, providing backup materials, allowing for public input – etc. – are not being followed. The Planning Department asks the Commission to separate from other kinds of decisions those that would result in the incorporation of inclusionary zoning – mandating inclusionary development in certain areas or under certain conditions.

City Manager Marlon Brown will speak at the CCNA meeting on Saturday. A DSCA executive committee will be scheduled for early next week to look at the specifics of what is being proposed and be ready to reevaluate our opinion after his half-hour presentation to CCNA. DSCA won't take or communicate an official position without board approval, and board members will be provided with information as it accumulates.

The City has also modified notification procedures for community workshops. Applicants (e.g. developers) and not city staff will be responsible for publicizing workshops and for their procedures and protocols. Permit applications sent to associations in envelopes mailed by developers under their letterhead and not from the City can be several pages thick and its easy to overlook or miss important parts. There's concern that members of the public, including association members, won't understand the importance of this change of template for community workshops - further diminishing the chances that residents who will be affected by a proposed development will have any input.

Sit and Lie Ordinance: Discussion was pulled from the August Commission meeting, and we don't know where it stands. Commissioner Brody, who passionately supports this ordinance and wants to have more public input on it, may bring it up at the next Commission meeting. For that to happen, it has to be put on the Commission agenda in advance. If that doesn't occur, it stays a "loitering" issue for now.

7. **City Update:** Cathy Sellers reported that the City is looking into ordering a smoking ban in parks and on Lido Beach, and whether it should extend to the beach's parking area as well. Smoking would then be allowed only in a designated areas. David Lough reported that the Commission's first vote of approval for the next fiscal year budget took place without any discussion.

Committee & Liaison Reports:

8. **Arts & Culture:** Ken Shelin reported that eight Broadway touring plays are scheduled for the Van Wezel. Renovations of the Arts Center and its successful new shows are the results of its new CEO and energy shown by all involved. Committee members will meet in October with Florida Studio Theater staff concerning their plans for a ten-story residential building on property adjacent to FST on Second Avenue.
9. **Associate & Events:**
 - City Commission Candidates Forum (Sept. 22): Categories for questions are: 1) a more walkable city, 2) managing growth, 3) affordable housing, 4) sustaining economic and cultural quality of life in Sarasota, 5) role of arts & culture, 6) city government efficiency. Board members are asked to forward to David Lough or Peter Fanning specific questions, in these categories, they would like the candidates to be asked during the formal, facilitated part of the event. At the event itself those attending will be given 3x5 cards on which to write their own questions, and fifteen minutes toward the end will be provided for those questions as well.
 - Kristin Fourie reported that registration for the fall workshop is doing well because of more aggressive marketing – and is already at 40% capacity, with a few more sponsorships left. Patrick Gannon raised the issue of Condo associations showing confusion about where to send their reports after they have done their repair reviews. Clarification is needed from the City on this and other matters the workshop 4 will address. The board can help put pressure on the City to send us information so we can assist member reps in the future.
10. **Greenspace Committee:** no report
11. **Homeless Committee:** Peter Fanning reported that an email sent by a well-meaning accomplished person to the Commission on July 31st asserted that we don't really need a second reading of the Sit and Lie Ordinance, but rather a task force to regenerate concerns, etc. That email may have influenced the Commission to postpone the issue for now. Its writer, whose thinking and suggestions are good, nevertheless evidently lacked context - namely that a Commission-approved contract dating to 2017 set up the crisis response system created and run by the Suncoast Partnership to provide services to the homeless. Peter Fanning proposed that, taking a cue from the email, what is really needed is set up of an evaluations system to provide data as to how well the Partnership's policies and actions have been working. He asked for a motion to allow him to contact the email's author, and include others who may be interested, to create a new task force charged with setting up and implementing that evaluation system. Motion was made by David Lough and seconded by Bob Pirollo, and approved unanimously.
12. **Transportation:** no report
13. **Zoning:** no report
14. **Bay Park:** Bob Pirollo reported that the grand opening is planned for October 15, ribbon cutting on the 21st, and there will be nine days of events. Further community outreach is now in progress, flyers are being distributed, etc. Volunteers are needed. There will be new greens at Bobby Jones gulf course, open in May or June.



15. **CCNA:** Ted Wilson reported that CCNA is working on getting WiFi into parks downtown. There was discussion of whether / how Ted could, on DSCA's behalf, perhaps question Marlon Brown, who will be speaker at CCNA's Saturday meeting, about public input provisions and other matters being considered in the comprehensive plan changes being discussed in Planning Board and Commission meetings. The conclusion was that Mr. Brown can be assumed to know the matter is on people's "radar" and is likely to address the subject during his time at CCNA's meeting without Ted's prompting.
16. **Rosemary District:** At the 9/6 city commission meeting \$256,000 in the City's Park Impact Fee fund were allocated in the FY21 budget for the design and construction of the Rosemary District Park. Jerry Fogle (Parks & Rec Director) has indicated another source of funding for the park will be available from tree related budget sources.
17. **Associate Member News Highlights:** Terry Phelps of Socotec Engineering; Rebecca Cicci of Lighthouse Property Management; Brandon Vermillion of Servpro; and Kristin Fourie of Core Marketing.

At 5:44pm, **Motion to adjourn** by Patrick Gannon, seconded by Cathy Sellers.

Next meeting: October 5th, same location and time.