



DSCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 4, 2023
Broadway Promenade and Zoom

Board Members Present: David Lough, Patrick Gannon, Clark Lauren, Bob Pirollo, Ken Shelin, Catherine Sellers, Peter Fanning, Jaime Still, Roger Barry, Judy Mower.

Board Members Absent: None

Member Representatives Present: Shari Bunks Geller, Beau Ciel; Bill Diehl, Condo on the Bay; Sue Lehrer, Embassy House; Richard Mones, Renaissance; Peter Blanton, Ritz Carleton Residences; Mark Grant, BLVD Sarasota

Associate Members Present: Jenn Poppen, Fifth Third Bank; Michelle Colburn, Tannenbaum Lemole; Don Fitts, Cornerstone LifeCare; Steve Shaw, Hotwire Communications; Annika Manitus, Burg Simpson Eldredge; Michele Sidlasky, City National Bank.

Guests Present: Nikesh Patel, City Engineer; Camden Mills, City Public Works Department; Liz Alpert, City Commissioner; Howard Kilman, BLVD Sarasota; Charlie Nagelschmidt, Broadway Promenade; Jim Baker, Alinari; Victor McTeer, Howard Kilman, Mark Grant, BLVD Sarasota; Kafi Benz, CONA.

David Lough opened the meeting at 4:07 and determined a Quorum was present with all board members in attendance. The minutes of the December meeting were approved on motion made by Peter Fanning and seconded by Cathy Sellers. Treasurer Clark Loren reported that the DSCA account held \$7233.64 as of 12/31/22

Presentation by Camden Mills, Manager of Capital Projects, City Public Works Department:

Mr. Mills' bio was circulated prior to the meeting. He oversees the design and construction of the city's public works projects, and has been in his position since July of 2021.

- City Engineer Patel oversees Engineering, Transportation Planning, Surveying, Capital Projects, Infrastructure and Right-of-Way Maintenance
- As Capital Projects Manager, Mr. Mills oversees implementation of the city's 5-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP), to be completed by 2027, the budget for which is about \$224 million overall, \$47 million for fiscal year 2022-23. This funding comes from the penny sales tax, gas tax, multimodal transportation fees, state appropriations grants, and other sources. Over 100 projects have been identified within the CIP.
- CIP plan is updated annually, through a process that will begin with a budget review in February and conclude in September with two public hearings, dates yet to be determined, just prior to the adoption of the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

Downtown projects currently underway:

- 1) Ringling Trail, the first *Complete Streets* protected bicycle trail in this region, future improvements to include landscaping and additional medians,
- 2) Gulfstream and 41 Roundabout, now operational and to be completed in early 2023, landscaping, artwork and sculpture additions to occur in phases that will conclude in November,
- 3) upgrades, including retaining walls and sculpture placement, at roundabout at 10th St. and US 41 (first instance of such enhancements on a state road) to be completed in fall of 23,
- 4) Sculpture and landscaping at 14th St. roundabout,
- 5) Ringling Blvd. and Pine Place roundabout – similar improvements, and tying in with Ringling Trail,
- 6) Connected Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) pilot project – in partnership with FDOC, installing and testing new sensor technology at 15 intersections around the city,
- 7) Smart City Initiative concerning monitoring of red tides and sea level rise, working with Mote Marine labs – testing mitigation and cleanup techniques,
- 8) extension of Legacy Trail along south side of Payne Park to Alderman – awarded a grant for further design work leading to construction next fiscal year,
- 9) Blvd. of the Arts and 10St. *Complete Streets* projects (from 41 to Orange) – invited by USDOT to apply for grant for intersection and streetscape improvements (wider sidewalks, undergrounding utilities, bike lane, etc.) – 2023 priority project for the City, community survey complete, design work underway, plans for more public outreach, environmental review,
- 10) Main St. *Complete Streets*- widening of sidewalks, parking reconfiguration, landscaping – US41 to US301, requests for design proposals going out in 2023, also a City priority project,
- 11) US41 and Fruitville roundabout – down to three finalists for central sculpture,
- 12) Cocoanut Ave. and 2nd St. roundabout – design in 23, construction in 24,
- 13) Fruitville Road *Complete Streets* – planning for numerous improvements, public outreach in 23/24, design, etc. in 24/25, construction and completion in 27/28,
- 14) Rosemary Park pocket park – three different concepts to choose among, public input via surveys to make final choice, draft construction plans in January
- 15) ultimately, looking at prospects for roundabouts at US41 and Main, and US41 and Ringling, start of planning in 24/25

Regulation Updates, Engineering Design and Criteria Manual Update: (EDCM) There will be public meetings in May (potential changes) and August (first draft), hearings and commission meetings in September and October. Last update of manual was in 2002.

Multimodal Transportation Impact Fees: Reviewing and revising ordinances to be able to provide clarification on usage and update on fees, in 2023. These fees are generated by new development, up to \$1.2 million per year, and are applied to various expenses (e.g. bike trails, park improvements). Public outreach will be done to generate a list of projects to receive this funding.

Mr. Mills invites further contact from DSCA members, Camden.mills@Sarasotafl.gov, 941-263-6138. In the Q & A period that followed his presentation he explained that the term “pedestrian mall” on Main Street refers to occasional times when sections are blocked off for an event downtown so that the street can be used freely by pedestrians, exhibitors, etc. It was further clarified that the final timeline(s) for the Blvd. of the Arts and 10th St. projects (#9 above) has not yet been determined. For that project, alley ways between those two streets will be part of the planning and will be sites for improvements. There is no plan to install a roundabout at US41 and Blvd. of the Arts because there isn’t enough available land for one.

Video recording of Mills’ presentation will be posted at the DSCA website.

New Gold Associate member: Photo SRQ, represented by Kevin Quick, was approved. The firm does mostly architectural and real estate work.

New Condo Members: Risdon on 5th and Library Mews were unanimously approved as new condo members. Moved by Patrick Gannon, second by Roger Barry.

Treasurer’s Report: The budget for 2023 had been discussed at December’s board meeting. After it was again presented, motion to approve was made by Treasurer Clark Lauren and seconded by Ken Shelin. Adopted unanimously.

City Update: Cathy Sellers reported that outdoor dining in parklet areas was discussed at a recent city commission meeting. A decision was confirmed that the current outside dining would continue through 3/31/23. There was a discussion at the city commission meeting about low frequency, bass ‘noise’ - reported by residents of 1350 Main during the public comment period of the 1/3 city commission meeting. The City will investigate. According to Pat Robinson, the number of noise complaints in the immediate downtown area has decreased over the past several months, including few if any complaints regarding Art Ovation or the Gator Club.

President’s report: David Lough reviewed DSCA initiatives for 2023 using a Mindmap Summary Outline providing a one-page graphic of key DSCA initiatives. There was consensus the Mindmap is of value, potentially with a narrative cover document. Lough committed to refine the Mindmap and bring it back to the board for additional consideration. Lough asked if there were any suggestions of new people to be considered for nomination at the annual meeting in March, or if any board member would like to resign. All current board members confirmed their interest in continuing to serve. Notice of the annual meeting to be sent to member representatives will include asking if they have interest in serving on the board or on one of the committees. There was some discussion of the value of expanding DSCA committees to include

more volunteers, as a way to involve more people who may already have useful skillsets, and also as a way to “train up” more such willing workers on behalf of downtown Sarasota.

Arts and Cultural Committee: Ken Shelin reports that letters have gone back and forth between supporters of the Van Wezel and SPAC projects. Nothing specific has happened in the recent past. A Blue Ribbon Committee has been put together to decide how to re-purpose the existing Van Wezel. The city commission will hold a workshop on that issue. There have been no further tours of the Van Wezel as the busy schedule of events prevents staff availability for such tours.

Associate Members and Events Committee: Jaime Still reviewed plans for the submission of a Neighborhood Partnership Grant of \$3000. The grant is to be used for DSCA to host a Town Hall on March 23 as part of the Annual Members meeting. Two board members stated they would like to see the final grant draft before giving approval. The board agreed via motion made by Peter Fanning and seconded by Ken Shelin that there will be email approval of the grant prior to submission. Motion carried unanimously. [The approval of the grant draft, without changes, subsequently occurred via email. Approved was unanimous.] The topics for the Town Hall meeting will be zoning, homelessness and pedestrian safety. Jaime Still welcomed new Associate Member Liaison, Annika Manitus. (Motion by Lauren Clark with second by Roger Barry.)

Greenspace Committee: Patrick Gannon reported he has reached out to city arborist Don Ullom to get an update on various city projects including Urban Forestry. A response is forthcoming.

Homelessness Committee: Peer Fanning - No report

Health and Safety Committee: David Lough - No report, covered in City Update

Transportation Committee: Roger Barry reported he had no update beyond the detailed summary of transportation projects covered in the Camden Mills presentation.

Zoning Code Committee: David Lough confirmed that the timeline for DSCA providing input to the Affordable Housing Density proposals has been agreed to. The timeline was included in board backup materials. DSCA has proposed that there be more opportunity for public engagement concerning changes to downtown zoning text amendments. On January 9th there will be a meeting of DSCA board members with Planning Department staff. On January 19 there will be a Town Hall led by Planning Department staff for downtown residents.

Bay Park Conservancy: Bob Pirollo reported that the Bay Park Conservancy went before the Planning Board last month re. zoning change 4:1 (adding more housing units and designating housing for Bay Park employees) - to not recommend approval in its current form. The matter will come before the city commission. It is not known if changes to the proposal will be made based on Planning Board recommendations.

CCNA: Open and seeking a representative. Ted Wilson, DSCA membership representative, is moving out of the area. There was board discussion and confirmation that the DSCA



representative does not have to be a board member. It was agreed Lough would assist temporarily.

Newsletter: A newsletter will go out on January 15th, to include mention of the Town Hall to take place at City Hall on the 19th, and affirming that observers are welcome at DSCA board meetings.

Rosemary District Association: No report

Platinum Member Highlights, Gold Member Highlights: As they were introduced by Jaime Still, representatives spoke for the Tannenbaum Lemole firm (Platinum level) and for City National Bank, Hotwire Communications, and Burg Simpson Eldredge (Gold Level).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm.

Next Meeting: February 1, 2023, 4 pm, same location and via Zoom. City Manager Marlon Brown will be guest speaker.

Respectfully submitted: Jaime Still and Judy Mower