

DSCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 3, 2023; Broadway Promenade and Zoom

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

Board Members Absent: Judy Mower

Guests Present: Reina Bessie, Keith Robbins, Nichole Mills, FL DOT; Alvimarie Corales, Daniel Ohrenstein, Nickesh Patel, City of Sarasota; Kafi Benz, CONA; Howard Kilman, BLVD Sarasota; Ted Wilson, Regency House

Member Representatives Present: Steve Mannik, Royal St. Andrew; Irving Ross, Bay Plaza; Bill Diehl, Condo on the Bay; Peter Blanton, Ritz-Carlton Residences Sarasota-Quay; Rosemary Krimbel, Alinari; Charlie Nagelschmidt, Broadway Promenade; Lisa Schmitt, Regency House; Cindy Land, Essex House; Paul Colella, Victor McTeer &; Ted Wilson, Regency House; Cheryl Walker, One Hundred Central Avenue; Shari Bunks Geller, Beau Ciel; Jim Lampi, Jewel; Concierge, LaBellasara; Steven Roskamp, Sarasota Bay Club; Susan Lehrer, Embassy House

Associate Members Present: Monessa Bailey & Leymis Bolanos Wilmott, Sarasota Contemporary Dance; Kristin Fourie, CORE Marketing Solutions; Annika Mantius, Burg, Simpson, Eldredge, Hersh, Jardine, Professional Corp.; Terry Phelps, Socotec (Forge Engineering); Erin Mace, Youthful Aging Home Care; Steve Shaw, Hotwire Communications; Paul Schott, ServPro of North Sarasota; Don Fitts & Fred Grady, Alderman Oaks

Meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.

Approval of Minutes of April 5 Meeting: Board approval was unanimous. (Via zoom not possible to know who made the motion or seconded.)

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Clark Lauren reported a balance of \$5109.73 in DSCA's account. We are waiting for \$2000 to come from the City.

Florida Department of Transportation Presentation: Roger Barry introduced guest speakers Nichole Mills, Keith Robbins, and Reina Bessie, from Florida DOT, all with impressive credentials and DOT experience. Board members can link to the slides of their PowerPoint presentation via the DSCA website.

Presentation Highlights:

Need for Safety Initiatives: FDOT uses a Safe Systems Approach – being proactive to improve safety of Florida highways. In Florida, average statistics are 8 daily fatalities, 49 serious on state highways. During the pandemic there were fewer drivers, but more speeding. Speeding on the Interstate (Rte. 75) is triple digit. The need is obvious and the target is zero crashes.

Overview of Sarasota County: 2015-2021; 2462 vehicle crashes, 294 fatal. Numerous bicycle and pedestrian crashes.

Examples of success: Safety Initiatives completed along 301 resulted in 33% reduction of serious injury crashes, 88% drop in bicycle crashes. Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Crosswalk Signals (aka Hawk Lights) at

Rte. 41 and Fruitville reduced pedestrian crashes. New Multi-use trail crossing on Alderman has improved safety.

Initiatives underway: More improvements are being considered along various stretches of 301 and 41, including a road safety audit along much of 41. Affecting downtown, DOT is evaluating various intersections, including 41 and Boulevard of the Arts, and Sunset and Gulfstream. Further assessment and possible safety upgrades associated with the Gulfstream roundabout will occur after the roundabout is completely done. Old phosphorus-based lights throughout the city and county are being equipped with LED replacements. All sections of the Ringling Bridge will be repaired, upgraded, resurfaced where needed. Various adjustments will be made to surfaces and widths of the travel lane, bike/trolley lane, sidewalk – all to improve safety and mobility. FDOT support continues for the Bay Runner Trolley – ridership in January was 16,000 users. New roundabouts at Main and Ringling are in planning stages, DOT waiting for design money from the state. Two other roundabouts in design stages are for 41 and MLK, 41 and Myrtle.

Fruitville Road (FL Rte. 780) Corridor Visioning: First survey (300 respondents) revealed as people's top three concerns safety in general, speed control, and pedestrian access. Plans being considered for revision include tree-planted center median between north and south traffic lanes, other landscaped dividers on either side fronting 10-12' wide sidewalks in downtown area, wide bike lanes in other areas – various concepts at different sections depending on total road width. Resident outreach and feedback to FDOT continues. Other design work is underway regarding Fruitville / RTE 75 intersection.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: These are privately owned and funded, but FDOT is focusing on locations, the aim being to have Direct Current Fast Charging Stations every 50 miles along Interstates in Phase I and along all routes in the Alternative Fuel Corridor in Phase II.

Questions and suggestions from board members and member reps that led to further discussion touched on the need for more speed control on Palm Avenue, need for signage at intersection of 41 and Boulevard of the Arts, other traffic calming measures. So-called 'speed bumps' that effectively slow traffic cannot be installed on state roads, or on any street where the speed limit is over 30 mph. Crosswalks are slightly elevated, and thus help a little as traffic calming devices. Roundabouts are designed to slow drivers to 20 mph or less, but drivers tend to speed up when they emerge from a roundabout – creating a sort of "race track" effect. Pedestrian overpasses over streets (e.g. Pine) would have to be City, not FDOT projects. Posting "No U-Turn" signs between roundabouts would be helpful. Drivers are finally learning to slow down and pay attention to Hawk lights (e.g. at 14th street), so pedestrian crossing is becoming a bit safer. Once approved, it takes about two years for state money to come in for the kinds of projects under discussion and construction completion can be five to seven years out. Bike trails should be cleaned more often (broken glass).

DSCA 2023 Association Survey: Bob Pirollo and Patrick Gannon reported that the survey is under development and will be very comprehensive, including more than 70 questions. Survey Monkey will be used. Designers are working on language that will help responders easily input their answers and information. 80% of member representatives responded to the last survey and that data continues to be very helpful. Design work should be done by the June meeting. Paying the consultant with whom the design team is working would probably best be done via a flat fee arrangement.

City Update: Cathy Sellers is following up on some of the complaints about which people were especially vocal at the Town Hall.

Arts & Culture: No report.

Associate & Events: Jaime Still reported they have not yet chosen a topic for the next workshop.

Greenspace: No report.

Homeless: Peter Fanning stated that a written report will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Health & Safety: No report

Transportation: No report

Zoning: David Lough reported that proposed revisions to the zoning codes text amendments pertinent to criteria for high density affordable/attainable housing development are going to the Planning Board on May 16. Steve Cover will make a presentation to CCNA on Saturday. One positive David notes is the code requirement for pedestrian zones between curbs and buildings. These would essentially be 8 ft sidewalks combined with 6 ft. planting areas large enough for trees. Patrick Gannon brought up the issue of the City's nonresponse to requests for community workshops as being against the interests of downtown residents. The consensus of meeting attendees was that David Lough should present at the CCNA meeting DSCA's position that community workshops (not "hearings") should be held as part of the pathway to eventual Commission or Administrative approval.

Bay Park Conservancy: Bob Pirolo reported that Phase 2 will begin this month. A summary of progress was recently in the Herald Tribune. Of the \$65 million cost being covered by the City, \$5 million will be designated for operating. The bond money that was secured for the project can be used only for construction, not operating. A new project management CEO is taking over and they are adding staff. There is some discussion of the possibility of building within the Conservancy some amount of relatively low cost housing for artists and performers.

Rosemary District: David Lough reported that a recent "soft" commitment was made by Jerry Fogel to have the Rosemary Park upgrades finished by the end of the year.