



DSCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 5, 2023; Broadway Promenade and Zoom

Board Members Present: David Lough, Clark Lauren, Patrick Gannon, Bob Pirolo, Catherine Sellers, Peter Fanning, Roger Barry, Judy Mower

Board Members Absent: Jaime Still, Ken Shelin

Member Representatives Present: Janice Hetland, 101 Condominium; Rosemary Krimbel, Alinari; Bill Diehl, Condo on the Bay; Fran Lambert, Bay Plaza; Abe Morgentaler, BLVD Sarasota; Jim Lampi, Jewel; Lisa Schmitt, Regency House; Richard Mones, Renaissance

Associate Members Present: Fred Grady, Alderman Oaks; Annika Mantius, Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh Jardine; Steve Shaw, Hotwire Communications; Dennis McSweeney, Smart Water Protection; Erik Martakis, Crews Bank & Trust

Guests Present: Lucia Panica, Development Services Director, City of Sarasota; Myra Schwarz, Development Services General Manager, City of Sarasota; Barbara Campo, Alinari; Anthony Joseph, Robert Malan, Wendy Starr, Bay Plaza; Victor McTeer, BLVD Sarasota; Susan Lehrer, Embassy House; Linda Haller Sloan, Marina Tower; John Bordeaux, Mark Sarasota; Pamela Mones, Renaissance; Peter Blanton, Ritz-Carlton Residences Sarasota-Quay

The meeting was called to order by David Lough at 4:02, a quorum was declared.

The minutes of the June board meeting were approved (Bob Pirolo, Cathy Sellers,).

Treasurer Clark Lauren reported that DSCA's bank account holds \$7,422.50. Patrick Gannon asked about a payment due to Wild Apricot (DSCA's website host) and was told it would be paid by next month.

Guest Speaker: David Lough introduced **Lucia Panica**, the City's Development Services Director, who last spoke to the DSCA board two years ago. It was a first time visit for her colleague, **Myra Schwarz**, Development Services Manager, who spoke briefly about her career in various municipal government roles before joining Panica's staff in Sarasota. A link to the PowerPoint slides Ms. Panica used is below.

<https://dca.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Sarasota-City/City-DevServices-Panica-DSCA-20230705.pdf>

- **Selected points and highlights of the presentation and discussion:** Using the slides, Ms. Panica overviewed how her department in Sarasota City government is organized, described various functions and roles within the department, and walked us through an interactive map within the City's website to show how it can be used to track the status of pending developments under review, including photographs and drawings, as they progress through the approval process.

Among points of information and issues raised via questioning are these:

- City Hall 2nd and 3rd floors hold Development Services offices for 66 City employees organized into 7 divisions. (Code Compliance, Zoning, Building & Permitting, etc.)

- Developers can use the interactive functions of the Development Services web portal to obtain information, track progress on their proposals, etc. The department is working toward developers being able to submit applications electronically, but that is not yet the case.
- Each proposal is assigned a Case Manager who becomes the chief liaison with the developer as his/her proposal goes through the system.
- The Development Review Committee (DRC) meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. DRC meetings are open to the public, as are Planning Board and City Commission meetings, but in DRC meetings the public attendees are not allowed to engage – ask questions, offer comments, etc. – because the purpose of the meeting is to focus on the technicalities. Input can be submitted in writing or by calling the Case Manager.
- There is provision for citizen input once an application is deemed complete. Neighborhood representatives are notified in writing about a proposed project, along with DRC comments. Property owners within 500 feet of the site are also notified.
- Once a project has gone through all the steps and been approved, the City’s website does not provide any reporting on progress toward actual construction. (This was said in response to a board member’s asking why some approved projects “seem to disappear”, i.e. actual construction is being delayed temporarily or, perhaps, indefinitely.) The developer’s construction Staging Plans that are approved by the Building Official are not available from the City’s website.
- The City is working toward being able to show 3D modeling of structures and their surrounds. The first and longest phase, information gathering, is expected to be completed by end of December 2023. In the next fiscal budget there will be funding for subsequent phases.

New Associate Members: Crew Bank & Trust and Ball Janik LLP were voted in as a new Gold Associate members (Bob Pirollo, Clark Lauren). Erik Martakis introduced himself for Crews Bank & Trust.

Community Association Survey: Bob Pirollo and Patrick Gannon reported that 14 surveys have been completed so far. Reasons for delay in getting them filled out and returned stem from turnover in management associations, and changes in condo board leadership – difficulty getting the 73-question survey to the right person. The data is already proving to be valuable. For example, condo fees are showing increases of as much a 100%, and insurance premiums have gone up 50% or more.

President’s Report: David Lough reported that on Monday, July 10, a special City Commission workshop will feature an analysis of how the state’s new Live Local law will affect municipal governments, including Sarasota. Although there are only about 8 “parklets” remaining, the City’s provision for restaurant “parklets” (on-street table seating) will sunset in September. Assessed valuation of residential properties in Sarasota could see increases of 15% or more, regardless of whether owners are homesteaded. As these increases yield as much as \$1.1 billion in increased revenue for the City, this may prompt developers to look at vacating existing public property to enable even more development. Construction of new condominium buildings just keeps coming – adding 1000 or more new residences. Condominium prices are reaching \$600 per square foot. The City’s budget workshops on July 24th and 25th will hopefully address projected costs of 3D Modeling.

City Update: The County has been the collector of park impact fees collected by the City from developers. The City then has to go through a cumbersome process to obtain and use those funds. The Commission is planning to dissolve this arrangement and instead have the City collect and manage those fees on its own.

Arts & Culture: Forty-four residents applied for 7 positions on the Van Wezel Purple Ribbon Task Force member board. Each of the five commissioners will nominate 2 people from that list, then choose finalists



from that list of ten. The new Public Arts Master Plan will be brought before the Commission on August 21. There is a proposal to increase the .005% (one half of one percent) Public Art contribution assessed for new development projects.

Associates and Events: Jaime Still reported that an October 19th workshop for condo representatives is being planned targeting information on the high cost of growth in Downtown Sarasota.

Greenspace: Patrick Gannon reported he is waiting to hear back from a City staff for information on the City's Green Building Policy and the Urban Forest Program.

Homeless: Peter Fanning reported that at the committee's last meeting featured the Director of Transitional Housing for the Salvation Army who agreed with the committee that Sarasota does a much better job of supporting the homeless than is the case in other communities, but there is still opportunity to make further improvements.

Health & Safety: David Lough and Cathy Sellers reported that work is progressing on developing a pilot for a volunteer-based community program to be called City Watch. Wearing City Watch t-shirts, specially trained volunteers will be on the lookout for criminal behavior and report to the police department illegal or troubling situations they encounter on their "patrols". How the program will work, and what the City will provide as training, are topics under discussion. When planning is complete the DSCA board will receive a presentation and be asked for its approval. David repeated his concerns about the 8 promised new foot patrol officers that have yet to be recruited, trained, and assigned, and added that in his view people stop calling (to report a troubling event or crime) when they don't think things are being done in response to such calls.

Transportation: Roger Barry reported that the Gulfstream roundabout has been completed with final touches coming in July and August as landscaping is added. In his opinion traffic flow and public safety have been much improved because of it. There was also mention of a video showing numerous accidents in that roundabout.

Zoning:

Bay Park Conservancy:

CCNA: no report

Rosemary District: no report

Associate member presentations: Representatives from the law firm Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh Jardine, and Smart Water Protection, briefly gave updates on their organizations. Hotwire Communications will upgrade to Platinum.

Member Representative Comments:

Next Meeting: August 2, 4 PM, zoom and Broadway Promenade. Guest speaker will be Liz Alpert, Vice Mayor, Sarasota City Commission

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.