

St Armands Residents Association
Minutes
March 3, 2009

The regular meeting of the St. Armands Residents Association was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, classroom #2. Earl Scott being in the Chair and Secretary, Jenny Jett present. Board members present were Ed Pinto, Marlene Lancaster, Jay Sparr, Jan Haynes, Tom Blake, William Rex, Graeme Malloch and Jim Grace. Guests included Mary Tucker from the City of Sarasota and Carole Krohu. .President Earl Scott brought the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. and welcomed guests.

Minutes for the meeting held on February 3, 2009 were presented by email and approved.

The Treasury Report was presented by Bill Rex and approved. Jay Sparr questioned banking fees and volunteered to investigate alternatives.

Parking Garage Update - Earl recognized Mary Tucker with the City of Sarasota Purchasing Department. Copies of the Master Plan Report were handed out for review. Ms. Tucker noted the following items regarding plans for the proposed parking garage: It could be 2-5 years before the project would begin due to funding however the BID is looking at possible private funding to move the project forward, the site plan has been approved with building not exceeding 40' tall with one garage at the north lot near the fire station and one on the south lot to include parking and retail. Aintenance pros and cons, whether bathrooms were necessary, City parking meters are coming in as decided by the city. Ms. Tucker stated the City wants both the Resident's Association and the resident's agreement on the garages.

Much discussion followed on how and when the city planned to bring the association in on discussions as the communications during the development of the Master Plan were less than expected, how the height got to 40' when it was agreed between the Resident Association and LMR that the height would be limited to 35", how sound issues would be mitigated, whether or not residential streets become no parking when city parking meters are installed, whether the city would remove side parking on the Circle for improved traffic flow, and if the city will bury the power lines.

Ms. Tucker stated that while the Master Plan had been accepted by the City, it still had to be approved by the City Commissioner's if and when the funding becomes available. The City is undecided on burying the power lines as it would have to accept responsibility. She will confirm height limits on the garage including where the start point is – ground level or what. The City would provide security and maintenance for the garages. She concluded with asking that any ideas, changes or objections be made

known to the City and Commissioners. President Scott thanked Ms. Tucker for her attendance and information.

Following a brief discussion, it was decided that Earl Scott would draft a letter to the Commissioner's expressing the concerns of our association, subject to the Board's review and approval.

Walking Tour Brochures. Ed Pinto reported that Sun Trust is unable to continue to sponsor printing, however Pinto is working on a collaboration of combining the Walking Tour with an audio tour and sharing ad revenue. It will take him a few months to confirm feasibility so printing of new pamphlets is postponed until such time.

Phone Directory - Pinto reported that the Phone Directory had been updated and will be printed to include a "safety" section with the police phone number and would include our web site address along with the Spring Fling notification. Volunteers were solicited for the preliminary phone book distribution.

Traffic Calming – Earl Scott reported that the cost of the traffic calming only included asphalt, in order to use the donated pavers, they would have to be encased in cement to meet city code. It was decided to let the city move forward without using pavers to avoid any delay on the project.

Annual Dinner - Jay Sparr reported that the Sarasota yacht Club was available for the next annual dinner.

Website – Jan Lange reported that the web site came in on budget. Usage statistics from Dec '08 through Mar '09 were distributed. Use of the web site for ads and pictures is available.

Sidewalks – Tom Blake reported he previewed all sidewalks and met with the City on needed repairs. He reported that some of the worst areas have already been repaired and the City will continue repairs as funds permit. On Marlene Lancaster's recommendation that a uniform color be chosen, Liz Sparr agreed to research the original color in the historical archives so we may meet with the City on the color of choice for future sidewalk repairs.

Power Lines – Jim Grace reported that FPL would not agree to bury the power lines unless the City accepted all responsibility in the future for repairs (ie footwork on drainage, etc.). A report will be put forward soon and Jim suggested that LMR be kept informed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.