

St Armands Residents Association

Minutes

September 1, 2009

The regular meeting of the St. Armands Residents Association was held on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at the St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, classroom #2, President Earl Scott being in the Chair and Secretary, Jenny Jett present. Board members present were Hytham Bakr, David Day, Jan Haynes, Ken Pippin (by teleconference), Tom Blake, Dina Malloch, Ed Pinto, Jay Sparr, Jan Lange, Judy Heath, and William Rex. President Scott brought the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. and welcomed guest speaker Detective Kim Laster.

President Scott reported on recent graffiti and home intrusions in the neighborhood which prompted his invitation for Detective Laster to address the Board.

Guest Speaker Detective Laster reported she is the Sarasota Lead Gang Investigator, anything to do with gangs or graffiti goes through her. State law defines what constitutes a gang and Florida is very proactive on gang related issues. Det. Laster discussed the types of gangs and what their usual activity consists of along with which types of graffiti these gangs use and why. It was det. Laster's opinion that the type of graffiti seen in our neighborhood was perhaps what they call tagging and not related to any violent gang activity, or just kids on vacation in the area. She also discussed the importance of removing graffiti. Florida Law requires the owners of property to remove the graffiti; however, the City of Sarasota has a task force which provides for individuals charged in gang related activity to be used in the removal of graffiti as part of their community service hours. Property Owners who experience any graffiti markings should contact the city for this assistance.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the June 2009 Association meeting were reviewed via Email and approved by a motion from Ed Pinto, second by Jan Lange, with unanimous consent.

Treasury Report: Bill Rex presented the Treasury report noting we received 4 new members, had minor expenditures related to the statue repairs ending with a balance in all cash accounts totaling \$15,206.

Statue Repairs: Ed Pinto reported on the repairs to the statues stating the repairs had begun but it will be several months before the repairs are completed because of the items being sent to/from China.

Nomination Committee: President Scott called for volunteers for the Nomination Committee who will be responsible for securing members to serve as Board members and Officers for the upcoming year. Bill Rex along with Jay and Liz Sparr volunteered.

Other Matters: President Scott called for volunteers to take over the responsibilities of departing member Marlene Lancaster who was our CIG representative, Membership Chairman and keeper of our database. Jan Haynes and Judy Heath volunteered for the Membership duties, Jan Lange volunteered for the database, and Jay Sparr will take over attending the CIG meetings.

Annual Dinner: The Association's Annual Dinner was discussed. It will take place the last Thursday in February at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Judy Heath will be assisted by Jan Lange and Jan Haynes in the preparations for the dinner. Costs of entertainment will be solicited as well as the possibility of soliciting vendor items for a fund raising auction at the dinner.

Association Member Phone book Marlene's database will be turned over to Jan Lange for updating. Bill Rex will include the invitation to the Annual Dinner and a membership update form in the December newsletter. This membership update should allow for any needed changes to be made prior to the phone book going to print. There was discussion surrounding the solicitation of advertisers and Tom Blake volunteered to find out what the going rates are in surrounding publications.

Parking Garage: President Scott reported on the meeting with the City Commissioner, stating while Mr. Kirshner supported our Resident's Association, the rest of the City Commission were noncommittal in building the garage at the current height and descriptions as provided for in the Heidt & Associates Report. Much discussion amongst the Board members followed on how to emphasize the neighborhood opposition to the proposed garage. It was noted that 3 years ago a neighborhood poll showed 76% of the resident's were in opposition to the height. One of the unique qualities of St Armand's Circle is that the resident's and merchant's are living and working in the same area. A garage built at nearly twice the height of our new Fire Station is out of character with our area and opposed by the majority of resident's. It was decided that Hytham Bakr would contact the City Hall representative, Mary Tucker, (who met with the Board previously and provided assurances there would be other opportunities to discuss the garage height and design), to determine if there were any remedies she could offer and whether the recent dissolution of the consulting company, Heidt & Associates would have any impact on this situation. Motion by Bill Rex, "Ken Pippin will draft a letter to the City Commission indicating the neighborhood opposition, with copies to local newspapers, and review by Bill Rex and Earl Scott for additional matters of inclusion." Motion seconded by Jenny Jett, with unanimous approval.

Traffic Calming: It was reported that the traffic calming plans continue to move forward as the city budget allows.

Web Site: Jan Lange reported the site is up and running and now has a user name and password for member's private access to the membership directory. Old Community news will be removed and new news will be added as appropriate. Inclusion of our neighborhood map will also be included.

Committee Reports: There were no reports on CCNA, LMR, CIG or BID meetings.

President Scott reported the new Fire Station, and our new meeting room, will soon be available for use and requested that on departure from our temporary meeting space provided by the church, we pay thanks to the church secretary by sending flowers. Unanimous consent was granted.

Motion by Tom Blake, second by Graeme Malloch, meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.