

St Armands Residents Association

Minutes

January 6, 2009

The regular meeting of the St. Armands Residents Association was held on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at the St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, classroom #2, President Manuel Chepote being in the Chair and Acting Secretary, Jan Haynes present. Board members present were Hytham Bakr (by teleconference), Tom Blake, David Day, Jim Grace, Judy Heath, Marlene Lancaster, Ken Pippin, William Rex and Earl Scott. Guests in attendance were Alex Davis Shaw from City Traffic Engineering, John Moran and Rod Warner from The City Alliance, prospective Board members Dina and Graeme Malloch, Jay and Liz Sparr and past member Carole Krohn. President Chepote brought the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. and welcomed guests.

Minutes for the meeting held on December 2, 2008 were presented by email and approved.

The Treasury Report was presented and approved.

A presentation was given by Rod Warner and John Moran from the City Alliance in support of the downtown connectivity plan which would employ the proposed use of five roundabouts along the Bayfront from 14th Street south to Osprey Avenue. Mr. Warner acknowledged there was a conflict of use in the plan between City residents and those who reside on St Armands, Lido and Longboat Keys. He presented their case for what they think would be a safer configuration for US 41 for pedestrians going between the Downtown and the Bayfront. It is their belief that the Bayfront facilities are underutilized by Downtown residents because of the hazardous crossing of a high speed roadway. He advised those opposed to the plan to travel to Clearwater Beach to see the plan in action. If approved by the City Commission on March 10th, the roundabouts would not become a reality for about five years. He urged Board Members to seek more information from special programming on Channel 21. The City Commission is scheduled to review the plan on January 26th.

Alex Davis Shaw presented the completed design for traffic calming on St. Armands. Speed tables and raised crosswalks will be added to areas on N. Washington (NW Quadrant) and S. Washington (SW Quadrant) to slow traffic. The plan also entails creating small medians at the corners of Filmore, Madison and Arthur Drives. The medians could be hardscaped or landscaped and after discussion, the Board elected to go with landscaping. This may require the addition of irrigation and would not be included in the City budget. Jim Grace made a motion that the Association agree to pay for water use to the medians if meters are provided by the City. The motion passed unanimously. Neighborhood Grant money may also apply to the landscaping expenses. A request for faux paver stamping on the crosswalks was made and Ms. Shaw agreed to check in to the possibility of that enhancement with the engineering department. She reported that the plan was otherwise ready to go at this time.

Earl Scott presented the slate of Association Governors and Officers to be presented at the Annual Meeting on Jan 15, 2009. (See attachments) Carole Krohn declined her nomination to return the Board in the coming year based on family commitments.

Tom Blake discussed the need to turn out attention to the poor condition of our sidewalks. Cement is heaved by tree roots, broken, uneven in grade and coloration and encroached upon by untended vegetation. He agreed to head a committee to organize residents to groom the walkways and coordinate with the City on repairs and possibly painting of the cement with a uniform "John Ringling Coral".

Judy Heath reported light attendance expected for the annual meeting at this point and urged all to get reservation forms turned in. Bill Rex agreed to send out an email reminder to the membership. She requested that \$250 be paid for a Classical Guitarist to play during cocktails and dinner.

Bill Rex discussed the general disagreement among the Barrier Island Associations with the Bayfront Connectivity proposed plan. He cited the travel time increase getting off the islands which is more than inconvenient since it can be hazardous to evacuation and in an emergency. Limited accessibility to the Bayfront areas by City Dwellers is unproven and safety issues have not been substantiated.

Jay and Liz Sparr have agreed to attend BID meetings for the coming year and Ken Pippin and Earl Scott will cover the CCNA meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by: Jan Michele Haynes, Acting Secretary