

Property Owners Association General Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

The meeting was called to order by the President, Elaine Dreidame, at 7:00 PM.

Present: Elaine Dreidame, Bill Garner, Jerry Ferlisi, Carolyn Reichel, Ken Copp, Sal Torname, Ron Husted, Myron Henry, Frank Carr, Ray Banks. Absent: none Residents: 315

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as read.

Jerry Ferlisi presented the Treasurer's report: He thanked the membership for their interest and support in the year 2011. Our ending balance 12/31/2011 was \$107,017. 2012 dues prepaid in 2011 were up from 2010. Donations to the POA were up by \$5000 over 2010; Jerry thanked all involved. Our costs for publishing the Bulletin were up in 2011 by \$5000 primarily due costs related to the increased length. Again, we thank the membership for their interest and support of the POA.

Jerry Vicenti presented the Membership report saying that we, the POA, are here to support your interests and needs. Total household members in 2011 were 4200. His goal for 2012 is 5050. Go Jerry.

Elaine recognized David Gott, who assisted Ray Micucci in managing the underground refrigerant line failures. To review, some refrigerant lines run under the slab from the outside air conditioner unit to the furnace in the garage. Ray came to the Villages as a renter, liked what he saw, and is now a resident who has opened a business, "Real Cool". We're proud to have David as a member of our organization.

Betty Cunningham, local coordinator for SHINE, reminded the membership that her volunteers are available to provide free counseling on issues related to health insurance coverage and problem resolution. Counselors do not recommend or benefit from guiding seniors in their health insurance decisions. See the SUN for counseling locations and hours. She noted that those new to the area or with questions as to the portability of their current health insurance coverage are welcomed.

Ron Husted reported on the findings of the POA's investigation into the reception of AT&T cellular customers. Over 300 responses were received in a few short weeks. Ron met with the VP of AT&T communications from northern Florida who identified the problem as a lack of effective communication between local sales offices and AT&T headquarters. Ron was promised a response on how AT&T will proceed in improving reception here in the Villages, hopefully by June 2012. We will keep you informed of progress.

Three lucky attendees each won \$30 in our cash raffle.

Open Forum: Janet Tutt, District Manager, and Rich Lambrecht were on hand to assist in fielding questions of interest to members as follows:

An orange ribbon around a street light alerts residents that the utility company will return to repair it.

Questions arose related to the safety of the golf cart traffic in the community:

Renters may not be advised of safety guidelines. It was suggested that rental entities have information on safety available to renters.

The legal age to drive a cart is 14. Youth under that age stopped by police are reported to their home state and will have their driving permit withheld.

The POA will attempt to collect information on golf cart accidents. Residents witnessing an event are asked to Email location/date/details to the us (POA4us.org) for cataloging. Of note, we do not have access to police reports (if they exist) for 60 days after the event which will delay our ability to collection information. The Florida Highway patrol classifies accidents via class, but there is no class for golf carts. We will attempt to request that designation be added. We will report back to you regularly.

A resident whose property borders Wildwood was advised to attend a Planning Board Meeting for Wildwood to obtain information on future use of that property.

A resident noted that a For Sale sign on another resident's property obstructs a driver's view of traffic. The resident was advised to report the matter to Customer Service at 753-4508 who will refer the matter the Property Management. Questions that a resident feels need immediate response can always call Customer Service at 753-4508 for information.

Gate arms to Villages under construction are not set to open with each vehicle until construction equipment has left the Village.

A question was raised relative to the safety of the Golf Cart Bridge on Morse Boulevard. The response is that many questions have been raised about this bridge over the years. Repeated evaluations have determined that the bridge is built according to code. No updates are planned at this time.

It was reported that over 400 citations have been issued for speeding in the past couple of months. Residents are advised to adhere to the speed limits for everybody's safety – and pocket books. Golf cart drivers are reminded that this applies to them also. STOP signs are for all motor vehicles. Additionally, bicycles are expected to obey traffic signs. Tickets can be given to them also. The multi-modal trails are to be treated in the same respect as Villages roadways.

The question was raised as to unsupervised teenagers and their behavior at the Village squares. Residents were advised that aggressive/threatening behaviors on the part of teenagers need to be reported to law enforcement. As we all know, it is virtually impossible to track down a problem long after the event, so residents are requested to use a cell phone to report incidents to Community Watch as close to the event as possible.

Speaker: Elaine was proud to introduce Scott Cottrell, Director of Sumter County Public Works Department to discuss the new speed limits and roundabout signage effective in Sumter County January 2012. Scott presented a detailed description of the whys and specifics of the new speed limits.

These new limits apply to Sumter County alone, not Lake or Marion. Scott accepted suggestions from residents after his presentation and continued with this discussion after the meeting.

The other segment of his presentation centered on the roundabouts. These regulations follow nationwide standards. A driver negotiates a roundabout in the Villages in the exact same manner as any other roundabout in the US. Of note:

The vehicle in the roundabout has the right of way.

A vehicle entering a roundabout should be in the right hand lane if that vehicle plans on taking the first turn off the roundabout to the right.

If a vehicle plans on taking the second or later right hand turn off the roundabout, the vehicle is expected to enter the roundabout in the left lane.

Remember, if a vehicle enters the roundabout in the right lane with the plan of taking the second or later right hand turn and a vehicle comes up on their left resulting in a collision, the vehicle ticketed will be the one in the right lane.

It is not acceptable to enter a roundabout in the right lane and cruise around the circle until the vehicle approaches the right turn it plans on taking.

We are getting better, not older. Those who are "frogs" need to lead the pack in adopting better driving habits.

The county will be placing updated signage near roundabouts to better describe the correct lane for turns. Watch the lines on the road. A solid line is not to be crossed. A broken line indicates a lane change may be made.

Finally, keep your eye out for traffic moving in your direction from the left.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Good conversation with neighbors and new friends along with refreshments continued at the back of the room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Reichel, Secretary