

**POA Membership Meeting
October 22, 2019**

Called to order: by Cliff Wiener, President at 7:00 pm.

- All Board members present, excused: Bill Schikora and Peg Tackett.
- Organizations present: Seniors vs. Crime, Realty Exec, SHINE, Foxfire Realty, CERT and District Gov.
- September Membership meeting minutes read and approved unanimously by members present.
- Treasurer Report (Donna Kempa): September...income: \$8,471; expenses: \$17,436; net loss: \$8,965; operating balance: \$129,909 and stated now receiving November advertising renewals.
- Membership Report (Cliff): Stated the shredding event was moved to November 16th due to Tropical Storm Nestor. All 1,000 tickets were distributed and still good for this new date.
- Raffle: 3 winners of \$30 cash each, Vicki Alkema and Jerry Ferlisi donated back their winnings.

Announcements:

- Cathy Peppers made a pitch for volunteers to help with the POA initiative on "Fair Government 4 Sumter." Stated we're in the early stages, with 185 volunteers to date, but need more folks to help channel efforts. Objective, replace the five County Supervisors (3 up for re-election in 2020) with independent, thoughtful and qualified candidates. Don't need experts, will provide information needed, but would like to know experience and skills that volunteers could bring to this effort.
- Cliff mentioned 3rd NSCUDD workshop on solid waste/recycling management on October 23rd, 9am – 12pm at Savannah and Government Day on November 2nd, 10am - 2pm at Eisenhower.
- Cliff asked folks to contact the POA if their neighborhood or group would like a presentation on the AED program or a presentation on the POA, he has given 58 POA presentations so far this year.
- Cliff mentioned Dr. Anderson to discuss his patented metastatic melanoma treatment process at November 19th meeting at Laurel Manor.

Member Questions:

- What is the purchase of Central Sumter Utility by NSCUDD about? Ans: Cliff stated it could have benefit to The Villages, but need to work through the details of the about \$98M initiative. That the POA is on it and read the article in the November Bulletin.
- Is POA involved with litigation involving developer and a cross location? Ans: Cliff said no
- When will golf cart bridges over SR44 and Turnpike be done? Ans: Cliff said not sure, but it will take a while still. Previous projections showed first Turnpike bridge in 2020...suspect late 2020 at best.

Question & Answer Session: Mr. Bradley Arnold, Sumter County Administrator. Cathy, Cliff and Jerry read about 30 questions, mainly from members (collected before start of the meeting). Key questions:

- Why were road impact fees not raised? Ans: Next 5-year review wasn't until 2020, but with the 2018 agreement for additional Villages development, a contracted assessment was just completed and will be discussed on November 12th County Commissioner meeting.
- Why are The Villages road impact fees discounted? Ans: All road impact fees are discounted to be competitive with adjacent county impact fees. Fees also state-regulated by type, with retirement homes being less (currently \$901/home) than regular single-family homes (currently \$2,600/home).
- Real reason for appraised value and tax increase this year? Ans: We are in a boom period. County appraiser sets rates, with most home values increasing in 2018. Board sets Mil (tax) rate, with accelerated new growth, state budget items and other changes (such as public works now in general budget) requiring the increased budget and hence Mil rate increase vs. roll back.
- Alternative budgets considered? Ans: Looked at using just gas and road impact fees for road improvements but the accelerated growth cannot meet that amount. Cannot maintain or improve many other roads in the county even with the approved budget.
- How is 25% tax increase good for us? Ans: Continued growth of the community, more job opportunities and ensure protection of value of home over the years.

- The budget is funding new Villages neighborhood streets? Ans: No, funding is only for improvement to existing or new roads south of SR44 that are regional (i.e., city to city). The City of Wildwood has agreements with The Villages regarding other roads south of SR44.
- Why not use long-term bonds to fund the \$40-\$50M in road development? Ans: Borrowing \$22.58M for CR 525E work and Buena Vista extension and looking at grants for Marsh Bend Trail.
- Any plans to conduct a growth planning process? Ans: Yes, 2010 public meeting sessions resulted in an existing comprehensive plan, to be reviewed periodically. A large land area south of SR44 (Southern Oaks, etc.) was entitled for homes via developers purchasing it many years ago. When those developers couldn't execute (recession, etc.), The Villages (after 2012 timeframe) reached agreement with the County to purchase the land...which included Wildwood Springs (i.e., now Village of Fenney)...when they had originally planned not to go beyond SR44.
- Why didn't the County Commissioners address resident questions during budget public hearing? Ans: They were concerned if they engaged with each speaker there wouldn't be time to address all input received, plus it seemed counterproductive given the audience response when attempting to answer some questions after the public hearing portion.
- Since expansion was known in 2016, why rollback the rate then but not this year? Ans: 2018 Regional Road Agreement, pace of expansion and consolidation of some budget items.
- Would you have done anything different, regarding this year's budget process? Ans: Spent more time in advance engaging with people. In fact, looking to incorporate a Citizen's Academy to help keep residents informed.

Cliff thanked Mr. Arnold for attending and told him he is welcome anytime to attend POA meetings and provide information to its members. The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Submitted by: Reb Benson