

**Property Owners Association of The Villages  
General Membership Meeting  
November 17, 2020**

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

- Board members present: All, except Bill Schikora and Jerry Ferlisi (both excused).
- Members present: Approximately 38.
- Organizations present: Seniors vs Crime and Community Watch (no others due to COVID restrictions).
- October Membership meeting minutes read and approved unanimously by members present.
- Treasurer Report (Donna Kempa): Stated October income: \$11,797; expenses: \$21,652; net loss: \$9,855; and, operating funds: \$127,946.
- Membership Report (Cliff): Covering for Bill, Cliff stated it is very important to be a member if currently not one, there are important issues especially related to resident friendly supervisors and commissioners that the POA will be addressing.
- Raffle: Did not run due to COVID restrictions in place.

**Announcements:**

- Tita Dumagsa discussed the volunteer program and to please see her to sign up or at the volunteer tab on the POA website.
- Cliff mentioned the Vials for Life Program, hoping all will participate.
- Cliff mentioned that Oren Miller (new Sumter County District 5 Commissioner), Craig Estep (new District 3 Commissioner) and Reed Panos (new Community District 5 Supervisor) were present (and pointed out Gary Search (new District 1 Commissioner) when he arrived a little bit later). He stated it is critical to get the right folks - like these individuals who are resident friendly - into Commissioner and District supervisor positions. The POA will be involved with ensuring this continues to happen with the other two Commissioners and Supervisor positions, where needed. The POA has the power to help create the change necessary within the community.
- Reed requested time and discussed the Fair Government for Sumter County Political Action Committee (PAC) he led regarding replacing three incumbent Commissioners and he was soliciting folks to run for Commissioner or Supervisor positions. The PAC needs the residents help and can help those interesting in running.
- Cliff mentioned the November 14<sup>th</sup> shredding event was cancelled due to the Barclay Group (owners of Trailwinds Village shopping complex) stating they would sue us if we held the event on their property (we had permission with Lowes to use their parking lot). A new date and location have not been determined yet, but hope to run this event sometime early in 2021.
- Cliff introduces Len Hathaway, who put forth a motion for nomination of POA officers and directors. The Motion was for: Cliff Wiener, President; Jerry Ferlisi, Vice President; Donna Kempa, Treasurer; Reb Benson, Secretary; and, Andrew Curtis, Bill Schikora, Tita Dumagsa and Sal Torname as Directors. The motion was seconded with no other inputs and the nominations unanimously approved. All will be sworn in at the December Membership meeting.
- Cliff announced speakers for upcoming meetings: Mr. Richard Baier, District Manager, December (Everglades); Mr. Edward Jimenez, CEO for UF Shand's, March (Laurel Manor). Will have Gary Search speak sometime in 2021.

**Questions:**

- Resident asked why not something on car and golf digital reading at gates instead of using the card? **Ans:** Community Watch representative said infrastructure in place doesn't support a change and cost to change is prohibitive, but always looking for suggestions.
- Anything being done other than a recreation guide once a week in the paper? **Ans:** The District is looking at various items, like trying digital boards in recreation centers. There is also a committee planned in the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget to address this.

- Is there a way to get a true number of COVID cases in just The Villages? **Ans:** Look at The Villages News. District also looking at a full resident notification structure. There was a follow-up question on why The Village News doesn't list how many in the hospital. **Ans:** Not sure, but Oren read a letter he had stating currently 13 with COVID in The Villages hospital with 1 on a ventilator.
- What happened to the Sumter One petition? **Ans:** Oren said he has over 12,500 petitions to date, but also looking at other methods...stay tuned.

**Speaker:** Steve Renico, Seniors vs. Crime.

- Have been helping Florida residents since 1989. In fact, the organization was responsible for putting Everett Drugs out of business since they were charging folks for so many pills in a prescription but putting in less.
- There are 5 Regions and 40 offices statewide.
  - The Villages is in Region 4 (covers about 8 counties). There are 8 offices in the region with 4 in The Villages. The Sumter office is the busiest in the state – why, because we are very trusting.
  - Villages offices handled 680 cases (9,000 hours) from January-October 2020, returning \$500,000 to residents.
- Discussed many “do not trust” items, such as:
  - Daily Sun advertisers, handyman, landscaper, driveway pavers, water testers, etc.
  - Beware of cold calls, “door knocking” contractors, grandson calling for funds immediately, etc.
- Florida is a buyer beware state...few laws protect you; most protect businesses.
- Prevention is the key. Do your homework, check out contractors – Nextdoor and Talk of The Villages provide good feedback. Consider freezing your credit – its free if over 65. Tips when working with a contractor:
  - Avoid large payments up front, get more than 1 bid, get references, get receipts from subcontractors involved and don't be fooled by “licensed and insured.”
  - Read contract – insist on everything being listed in the contract.
- When in doubt or before signing a contract...call us (800.203.3099 or seniorsvscrime.com). They are not taking walk-in appointments during COVID pandemic.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.

Submitted by: Reb Benson, Secretary