

**Property Owners Association of The Villages
General Membership Meeting
November 16, 2021**

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

- Board members present: All except Donna Kempa, excused.
- Members present: Approximately 50 with 619 livestreaming.
- Organizations present: Shine, Hospital Auxiliary, Seniors vs. Crime, The Villages Shrine Club, Florida Friendly Landscape and Realty Executives.
- October membership meeting minutes read and approved unanimously by members present.
- Treasurer Report (Jerry Ferlisi): October income: \$2,720; expenses: \$16,029; net loss: \$13,309; and, operating funds: \$114,492.
- Raffle: Three winners of \$30 each with one winner donating their \$30 back to the POA for Project Support Our Soldiers (SOS).

New Business:

- Nomination of POA Officers and Directors. Len Hathaway announced: for President, Cliff Wiener; for Vice-President, Jerry Ferlisi; for Treasurer, Donna Kempa; for Secretary, Reb Benson; and, for Director, Andrew Curtis, Tita Dumagsa, Karen Lambert, Sal Torname and Dan Warren. With no further nominees, Len closed the nomination process and a motion was made and seconded to accept the individuals announced and was unanimously approved by members present.

Announcements:

- Cliff introduced the Sumter County Commissioners (Oren Miller, Greg Estep and Gary Search), District Supervisors (Sal Torname, Jerry Ferlisi, Andrew Curtis, Mark Hayes, Reed Panos, Andrew Bilardello, and himself) and the newly elected Mayor of Lady Lake (Jim Reitz) in attendance.
- Cliff mentioned the Vials for Life Program, stating its importance, plus noting Wildwood has started a similar program. He hopes to see a day where all Village residents are participating.
- Cliff mentioned the shredding event on April 9, 2022 at the Wildwood Community Center; adding that folks will need a ticket since it is for members only, with more information available in the December POA Bulletin. He also mentioned those members who get a ticket can also provide a donation at the event that will go directly to Project SOS.
- Cliff stated at least 327 folks each month (and about 1,727 one month) have watched the live-stream General membership meetings since we started that capability in July. Many others have watched the video that is posted to the POA website a day or two after the meeting.
- Cliff mentioned the ability to provide a POA overview brief or an AED presentation to any group that would like one.
- Cliff mentioned folks should sign up for e-notification with the district, it's a great tool.
- Cliff mentioned Lenora Spence, State consumer advocate on fraud, in December at Laurel Manor; Dick Campbell, The Villages Regional Hospital (TVRH) Foundation, in January; Angie Fox, Sumter Animal Shelter, in February; Cheryl Chestnut, TVRH, in March; and, Dr. Anderson, RBOI, in April.
- Cliff mentioned we will be inducting Bryan Lifsey (long-time POA advocate, District 2 supervisor and Seniors vs. Crime volunteer) posthumously into the POA Hall of Fame at the December meeting.
- Tita discussed the volunteer program and encourage anyone to reach out to her via the volunteer tab at the POA website if they would like to help. Could be in an area of their expertise, always looking for folks with IT background, or just to help in general.

Questions: None.

Speaker: Nina Conner with Florida Friendly Landscape.

- Nina mentioned there are nine principles to follow regarding growing the right plants in the right place. That plants native to Florida provide conservation benefits that others rarely measure up to.

- In choosing plants you need the right:
 - Hardiness zone. The Villages is mainly in zone 9A with a little bit in 9B. She sees many homes with robellini and queen palms which are better suited for zone 10, just south of us.
 - Light zone. Plant according to SUN (over 6 midday sun hours), PART SUN (3 to 6 hours direct sun) and SHADE (little to no midday sun) on your site.
 - Moisture zone. Plant according to wet, average or dry soils. Also test the soil for pH level.
 - Size. Select plants that fit the aesthetic and physical space at their mature size. Washingtonian palms can grow up to 5 feet per year and over 45 feet high, too large for most yards.
- Mulch is important. Provides a good appearance and curbs weeds. Natural mulch (pine straw or bark) is best. Stones (too warm), rubber (chemical) and cypress mulch not recommended.
- Spacing in-between plants is important. Guides are available on this.
- Why do plants die? Mainly due to bad care...improper watering, light and fertilization.
- Native plants (2,800 in Florida) do better (adaptive, non-invasive and create a habitat) along with some non-native plants. Want to protect natural resources...save time, money and energy. Native occurs naturally within a region while non-native is considered exotic and man-introduced.
- Invasive plants (115 in Florida) should be removed from landscape, they take over where other plants should be and can be costly to remove. For example, water hyacinth in The Villages cost millions to control. Mexican petunias are popular in The Villages but they are invasive. Other examples of invasive plants include: heavenly bamboo, weeping bottlebrush and golden raintree.
- Pollinator gardens are protective of animal habitats (butterflies, bees, humming birds, etc.).
- Actions to promote a sustainable landscape: conserve water, reduce/eliminate lawn, feed the soil and reduce/eliminate chemicals.
- The Florida Native Plant Society chapters host monthly meeting and field trips. The Villages Chapter meets the 4th Friday of each month at 1:30pm at the Big Cypress Recreation Center. Folks can also visit FNPS.org and PlantRealFlorida.org for more information on native plants.
- Pertinent Questions from the audience:
 - Recommended nurseries? **Ans:** No specific one, many good ones in the area.
 - Is a shady area good for milkweed? **Ans:** Depends.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.

Submitted by: Reb Benson, Secretary