

Property Owners Association of The Villages
General Membership Meeting
April 18, 2023

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

- Board members present: All, except: Reb Benson, Tita Dumagsa, Dan Warren and Steve Lapp, excused.
- Members present: Approximately 55, with over 150 watching via live-streaming.
- Organizations present: Hospital Auxiliary, Realty Executives and Seniors vs. Crime.
- March membership meeting minutes differed until the May meeting.
- Treasurer Report by Ash Marwah: March, Income: \$8,986; Expenses: \$23,213; Net Loss: \$14,227; Operating Funds: \$137,011.
- Membership Report by Ken Knodel. Close to 400 new members since the beginning of the year, many due to the recent member shredding event. All new members receive the Bonus card (discounts at establishments). Having more members helps with the cost of the POA bulletin and an effective POA. Please help us in recruiting new members.
- Raffle: Three winners of \$30 each announced, with one donating their winnings.

Announcements:

- Representatives. Cliff introduced Mark Hayes and himself as District Supervisors.
- Live Streaming. Cliff said this capability continues to be very successful, folks can see the meeting live on Facebook or at the POA website within a day or two.
- House Insurance Rates. Cliff said many residents are seeing premiums double. He asked residents to provide input to the POA if their rates have gone up significantly, we need this information before going to officials to see what they can do. He is also trying to get someone from the State of Florida insurance office to speak at a member meeting.
- Water Meter Spikes. Cliff said over 500 inputs received in the first couple weeks, but have slowed since then. He said some things are progressing but need more action; he will meet on Thursday with an Assistant District Manager. He asked all to continue to send in any water meter issues.
- Multi-Modal Path (MMP) Committee. Cliff mentioned the March 29th meeting of the revived committee (District 1, 2 & 4 representatives) went well with 65 residents attending. District 3 is now onboard and hopefully others will follow suit. Next meeting is in July and the POA will continue to push to make MMPs safer for our residents.
- Shredding Event. Cliff mentioned about 800 cars and 33,000 lbs. of paper were involved with the event. That we continue to improving the process, even after about 5 years, and plan to run it again next April. He added that \$2,700 in donations were made to Support Our Soldiers (SOS); stating his and Gary Kadow's (SOS Chairman) thanks to the members that contributed.
- POA Presentations. Cliff mentioned we can provide a presentation to any group.
- Member Meetings. Cliff mentioned Dr. Posner on Nutrition in May; Len Hathaway on Lightning in June; Bradley Arnold & Craig Estep on Sumter County Budget in July; no August meeting; Joey Hooten, Sumter County Property Appraiser, in September; and, Capt. Siemer, Sumter County Sheriff Department, in October.

Questions:

- Who owns the MMPs? **Ans:** Cliff said each District owns and maintains the paths in their district.
- There is an entrance off Buena Vista where vision is restricted when crossing the road in a golf cart and doesn't seem right that bikes can pass right by the gate arm without stopping. **Ans:** Cliff said he agreed but not much he can do about the bikes; adding that Capt. Siemer told him they cannot ticket along the MMPs but can ticket golf carts for not stopping at the stop signs before crossing near the gates. Cliff said residents should let District Supervisors know of any line-of-sight issues.
- Is there a brochure on MMP dos and don'ts? **Ans:** Cliff said District management is supposedly working to put more information out on MMPs.

- There were several questions and suggestions (such as paint, lights, stop signs) related to gate arm visibility. **Ans:** Cliff said District management states the arms meet Florida requirements; adding, he thought the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) was quick to shoot down a potential idea of putting lights on the arms. Jerry mentioned a report PWAC received on gate usage that showed over 98 million vehicles travel thru the gates each year with about 1,600 gate strikes each year...which is less than 1%.

Speaker: Cliff introduced Dr. Danielle Rosier, Audiologist for TruEAR, who provided a presentation.

- Dr. Rosier said 3 in 10 over 60 years old have hearing loss which increases to 9 in 10 when over 80; co-morbidities (diabetes, smoking, cardiovascular, ototoxic medications, sleep apnea and thyroid issues) play a factor; losing the higher pitch sounds first is very common (which affect clarity - hear but not understand) and, that untreated hearing loss can lead to dementia.
- Dr. Rosier stated to ensure you go with a firm that provides a quality program of testing, product, service and verification.
 - Testing...complete exam (about 1 to 1 ½ hours) that includes overall history, full check of the ears, a booth sound check, and discussion on understanding speech.
 - Product...a firm that carries more than one brand of hearing aids (Oticon, Signia (Siemens), Widex, Phonak, Unitron, GN Resound & Starkey are the best); ensuring best recommendation based on factors (lifestyle, budget, hearing loss, etc.)
 - Hearing Aids last 5 to 7 years; usually have a 3-year warranty and 30-day free trial (by law).
 - Over the ear is most common (just high pitch loss) but in the ear might be required or best.
 - Over the counter types (Costco, etc.) might be good for minimal loss.
 - Medicare usually doesn't support financially, but Advantage and Supplemental plans might.
 - Service...a provider with good qualifications and long-term support. For example, Dr Rosier sees her patients 3 to 5 times in the beginning then about every 4 months thru the life of the hearing aids. She also ramps up the effectiveness of the hearing aids as you adjust to them.
 - Verification...a real check of the hearing aids to ensure they are performing correctly.
- Cliff then introduced Mike Mcquilkin, from CaptionCall, who discussed their phone system.
- Mike said the program is federal funded so the system is free to any US citizen with a hearing loss. CaptionCall prints on the phone screen what the person is saying or prints the voicemail. It can be set up via land line or via Bluetooth to your cellphone. Call him at 352.409.7987 to get started.
- Pertinent questions:
 - What is the cost of a hearing test? **Ans:** Dr. Rosier said a lot of times it is free. Make sure it is a hearing test, not just a screening (which only tests hearing with beeps).
 - Had a hearing loss from a virus, was wondering what internal medications impact hearing? **Ans:** Dr. Rosier said there is a list of ototoxic medications available, can get it from TruEAR.
 - How do you know if you are getting a good deal on hearing aids and is there a better time of the year for good deals? **Ans:** Going with a good quality program that offers various hearing aid options will ensure a good deal. There is no best time for deals; spring time usually has some with new technology changes coming out, but there are deals at other times of the year also.
 - Can you explain "Roger"? **Ans:** Roger is a device (looks like a pen) that lets you focus on who you are listening to so you can pick up conversation and speech better.
 - Is there a waterproof hearing aid? **Ans:** The Phonak Lumity is waterproof. Most all other hearing aids are water resistant only.
 - Can you take the CaptionCall phone with you? **Ans:** Yes, can use it anywhere.
 - Can CaptionCall be used on landline, cellphone and WIFI and have them in different rooms. **Ans:** Yes, to all three, but not more than one at a time with landline being the best reception. Usually only one per household, unless mobility issues would dictate the need for a second one.

In closing, Cliff thanked Dr. Rosier and Mr. Mcquilkin for their presentations; adding that Dr. Rosier and TruEAR have provided him the best service possible for a few years now. There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm that was seconded and unanimously approved. Submitted (based on video and notes) by: Reb Benson, Secretary