

**POA Membership Meeting
September 17, 2019**

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

- All Board members present, excused: Sal Torname and Vicki Alkema.
- Organizations present: Seniors vs. Crime, Realty Exec, SHINE, Foxfire Realty, CERT and District Gov.
- August Membership meeting minutes read and approved unanimously by members present.
- Treasurer Report (Donna Kempa): August...income: \$6,756, expenses: \$13,521, net loss: \$6,765, operating balance: \$129,875. Monthly loss will change when fall advertising funds received.
- Membership Report (Bill Schikora): Mentioned some tickets still available for October 19th shredding event and explained why we went to a ticket process for this event.
- Raffle: 3 winners of \$30 cash each with one person donating their proceeds back.

Announcements:

- Deb Butterfield mentioned future POA Bulletin's will start addressing County government related items (such as impact fees, election rules, Commissioner duties, etc.) to better inform members.
- Cathy Peppers made pitch for volunteers. Don't need experts, but do need help making a difference working towards a fair government. Had 76 folks signed up by end of meeting.
- Cliff mentioned Computer Club for October and Dr. Anderson to discuss his patented metastatic melanoma treatment process in November; plus, updates on Sumter County government.

Member Questions:

- Why selective enforcement of deed compliance? *Ans:* Addressed during Candy's presentation.
- Can the 25% tax rate and/or assessment increase be reversed? *Ans:* Commissioners can approve a different final budget, hence less or no tax increase. Not sure of an appeal process for either item.
- Status of sinkhole insurance change? *Ans:* Bill did not make it out of Committee at state-level.
- Regarding taxpayers' rights, county has failed. Have not answered questions and/or with accuracy.
- Impact fees are lower for The Villages developer than other developers.
- Who represents us when the County doesn't? *Ans:* Cliff said change necessary to get fair representation. He urged all to attend the September 24th Sumter County Commissioners meeting and state a no vote to the 25% tax rate increase the Commissioners unanimously approved on September 10th. He asked for help with the POA facilitating ways to address unfair government and if there was any interest by members in running for District seats up for re-election in 2020.
- Get the word out about September 24th meeting via each neighborhood Nextdoor email network.

Speaker: Candy Dennis, District Community Standards Department (also Carrie Duckett). Two divisions:

- Architecture Review Committee (ARC). Eleven members (1 from each district & Standards Dept) reviewed 6,058 applications this past year (about 100 per weekly meeting). Highlight points:
 - Trees: need approval to remove any tree over 4-inch diameter; unless (under new Florida statute) you have a certified arborist report.
 - Landscape: must have sod or seed, can have Florida friendly ground cover.
 - 30-day appeal process (based on lack of due process or incorrect interpretation of restrictions).
 - Announced need for ARC member for Districts 1, 3 & 5
- Deed Compliance. Last year: 5,073 calls, 377 written violations, 20 public hearings.
 - Educate residents on legal contract between developer and property owner and enforcement.
 - Developer enforces internal (pet, person, etc.) and external (grass height, windows, signs, fences, trees, etc.); Community Standards only external. Call, email, write or stop by with issue.
 - Many issues can be resolved via submitting ARC application.
- Adding District 11 in 2021 and voting in 2020 to begin process to add District 12.
- Call 352.751.3912 with any architecture or deed compliance issues.
- Member questions:
 - Why different architecture restrictions? *Ans:* Based on deed restrictions in that district.

- Why external/internal for developer but not for Community Standards? *Ans:* Way it was set up.
- Concern over harsh treatment on violation (did praise Candy's help); tone of notice and at hearing. *Ans:* Have been looking at this and will continue to.
- Concern on minors (under 19) living in homes. *Ans:* Up to developer to enforce.
- Zero scape okay for Villas? *Ans:* Yes, but also must have bushes planted.
- Vegetable gardens allowed? *Ans:* Still looking into the new Florida statute on this.
- What type of crosses allowed? *Ans:* No distinction, all considered lawn ornaments.
- Length of too tall grass and amount of fine? *Ans:* 8 inches and up to \$500.
- When buying used home, who is responsible for previous violations? *Ans:* Buyer, unless addressed before closing and agreed to by seller to fix.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Submitted by: Reb Benson