

OVIS Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2019

Those in attendance were: Brian Smith, Ron Volz, Jeanne Volz, Laurel Martel, Dan Marks, Annie Stout, Joe Stout, Dennis Green, Donna Green, Connie Rieben, James Wiesner, Gary Curlan, Elton Follet, John Marrone, Darlene Link, Pam McAloon, Susan White, Matt Tiernan, and Beau Plessner.

Brian convened the meeting at 7 o'clock at the Hall. He gave everyone in attendance an opportunity to introduce themselves.

He indicated that the minutes of the last meeting had been distributed in the community. The minutes were approved.

Jim provided the financial statement noting there were 181 paid OVIS members and 18 contributing sponsors. He reviewed revenues and expenditures and indicated the current balance is \$15,788.64.

Concerning the Hall, Donna reported the Hall was fully rented for the next two months. Brian thanked Matt Tiernan for repairing the utility closet door.

Brian then reported on the scheduled programs for the March and April OVIS meetings. He said that Pete Krulder, the Honeymoon Island Park Manager, would make a presentation about the park at the March 25 meeting. This would include a description of the park facilities and recreational and educational opportunities there for visitors.

He said that Barb Walker who is President of the Clearwater Audubon Society will make a presentation at the April 22nd meeting. She will cover what Audubon does as an organization and will have with her a Peregrine falcon and several other birds to be included in the presentation.

Brian then reviewed the schedule for the next newsletter. This would be an opportunity to explain the upcoming programs and provide an update on development issues. He indicated the newsletter would go out approximately the end of the first week of March.

The next agenda was development updates. Brian indicated there was a proposed development on Pennsylvania Avenue that was an issue for the community. This had been reviewed at the last OVIS meeting. He indicated this was 5 acres of land with two structures on it, which has R-3 single-family zoning. The developer wants to change that zoning to increase the amount of development on the property with multi-family units. The proposed zoning would be RM -5. Brian indicated that OVIS was on record with a letter in opposition. He indicated the matter goes before the Planning Board on March 14 at 9 AM and then to the County Commission on April 23 at 6 PM.

Ron Volz then proceeded to outline community concerns with the project and petitions that are being circulated in opposition. The group then proceeded to have a discussion about the issues created by this development. It was noted there are environmental constraints in this area. In addition, there would be considerable traffic impact to the immediate neighborhood. There was also the concern this would add to the congested traffic in the Ozona Elementary School area. The point was made that the current zoning permits single-family development similar to the balance of Ozona, and that there is no reason to increase the development of the property, especially in light of this being a coastal area. The group felt it should be a policy to not increase development in coastal areas such as this and to hold down the population numbers as much as possible. There was discussion about getting the word out on this concern.

Brian then reported on two other projects. Concerning the self-storage proposal just south of Sherwood RV park, he said the developer had applied to the Board of Adjustment for several variances to fit their project on the property. However, due to a staff recommendation of denial and to the considerable opposition that was developing the developer withdrew their application before the Board of Adjustment. Brian said he was told that the developer is now trying to develop a project within the existing constraints.

In addition, the other self-storage structure that was withdrawn from consideration at Missouri and Alternate 19, Brian was told that a residential development is now being considered for that property.

Brian indicated that the Orange Street overpass for the Pinellas Trail is now open. Comments were made that although the project was now safe, it is very shabby in appearance and, at the least, needed to be re-painted.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.