

Minutes of the April 24, 2023 OVIS Meeting

Those in attendance were: Brian Smith, County Commissioner Dave Eggers, Julie Longen, Bob Fortner, Cindy and Roger Hurley, Beau Plessner, Rob Posavec, Connie Rieben, and Susan White.

The meeting was convened at 7:05PM.

The Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Brian said that Jim had sent the Board the financial statement, which included a balance of \$22,208.15 with 190 members and 23 sponsors.

Brian said that Donna plans to continue to do the Hall rental program for OVIS. The Board members stated their appreciation for her doing this.

In recognition of what both Dennis and Donna have done for the community, the Board agreed that gift certificates for two restaurants in Ozona be presented to them for their service.

To conduct the election of officers and board members, Bob Fortner took over the meeting as chairman of the nominating committee. The following people were elected and then sworn in by County Commissioner Dave Eggers: Brian Smith as President, Todd Guarino as Vice President, Julie Longen as Secretary, Jim Wiesner as Treasurer, with the following Board members, Connie Rieben, Susan White, Dave Ennis, Diane Williams, and Steve Krout.

The group then took up the canopy tree program. Brian reported that he, Skip and Barry met with the County Urban Forrester, Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes. He said it was a very productive meeting. The County is very supportive of this OVIS initiative. Brian outlined the three

target areas of Pennsylvania, Orange Street, and Tampa Road, which would be the focus of the program initially. The group discussed the challenges such as how big the trees should be, and which type were included. The group did conclude that palm trees would not fit the concept of a canopy tree as envisioned in the early discussion. Brian indicated it would be useful to have a budget limit on this initial program with the understanding that there would be follow-up meetings by the Board to approve the actual funding as the program proceeds. As recommended by Brian, the amount established for this program was established to be \$5,000.

Brian then reported that there was a meeting on the Shore Drive Bridge replacement on April 18. He summarized the facts presented at that information meeting. The clearance under the new bridge would be increased by 3 feet, and the pavement on the top of the bridge would be increased by 2 feet. A sidewalk will be added on the south side of the bridge starting two blocks west of the bridge and continuing east to Orange Street. Construction will begin in the winter of 2025 and will take 18 months. A discussion followed and it was concluded that several topics should be pursued in a letter to the County concerning the bridge scenario. The letter should include a desire for the bridge to retain a historic appearance, provide a Pinellas Trail connection at Orange Street for the sidewalk, and provide boat access under the bridge as much as possible during the project activities.

County Commissioner Dave Eggers provided information that there is a resurfacing program for many streets in Ozone this coming year. He indicated that the roundabout on Alt 19 is expected to be completed this summer. And the US 19 interchange at Curlew Road will begin construction this year. He also noted the County is currently appointing people to serve on the County Charter Review Commission.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.