

Minutes of the Quarterly meeting of the Harbor Oaks Homeowners Association

February 19, 2014

After the Pledge of Allegiance the meeting was opened and the president, Chet Trotto welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A quorum was established.

Chet introduced Mayor Joe Ayoub of Safety Harbor. The mayor had been asked to attend the meeting for a question and answer session regarding the current and future directions of the city. A summary of the Q&A session is appended following the official minutes of the meeting.

The Treasurer reported an opening balance for the quarter of \$12,927.98. After deposits totaling \$1930.84 and expenses of \$995.32 the new balance as at 2/19/2014 was \$13,863.50. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was proposed and carried.

The minutes of the meeting on 10/29/2013 were read - A motion to accept the minutes as read was proposed and carried.

Deed restrictions report: Following some general questions from the floor regarding deed restrictions, Chet emphasized that the deed restrictions are difficult to enforce because the HOHA is a voluntary organization. It would be possible to initiate legal action but the cost would typically be prohibitive. However individuals are encouraged to pursue infractions with their neighbors. It may just be that the offender is not aware of the restrictions and a friendly word may be all it takes to resolve the issue.

Crime Watch: This Saturday, March 1st the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor is holding their annual Open House. The event runs from 11:00AM to 2:00PM and in addition to campus tours, they will have several pieces of equipment on display including "The Eagle" and the Forensics Mobile Crime – and possibly a demonstration with the K9 dogs.

Old Business

An attorney's letter was sent to the owners of the "tree house" in Harbor Point Place. Chet and Matt had previously said that they would meet with the owner to try and resolve the situation amicably before the February meeting. One of the owners had agreed to remove it when removing Christmas decorations that were attached to the tree house but the decorations are down and the house remains. The membership at the meeting generally did not want the expense of litigation – for both parties - and hoped that the owners would remove the eyesore without resorting to litigation.

Garage sale: The date selected for the Spring sale is April 5, 2014. Chet will send out an email to obtain numbers of people who would wish to participate in a community garage sale. Last time only about six homes had sales and it was a bit disappointing that there were so few. HOHA pays for the advertising and puts signs out.

New Business: Chet asked for volunteers to do some maintenance work on the flower beds etc. The date set was Saturday, March 15th at 9:00am. Mike, Matt, Jane and Barry volunteered.

Chet mentioned that a couple of houses in the community had been bought recently and that two more to his knowledge were being worked on in the expectation that the bank owning them would soon be putting them up for sale.

Any Other Business: Open to the floor.

A question came from the floor regarding a previous discussion about solicitation occurring in the community. The City of Safety Harbor bans unauthorized solicitation. Solicitation is defined as any form of canvassing associated with the transfer of money or providing services for money. Politicians are excluded! Anyone wishing to solicit within the city needs a permit from the city – the permit/ID must be worn on a lanyard around the neck by the solicitor. There are no exceptions.

Motion to adjourn was carried at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted –

Barry Tosdevine.

Q&A Session with Mayor Joe Ayoub.

Mayor Ayoub opened up with a brief update of happenings in the City.

The highlights were the introduction of the “Jolly Trolley” that runs on Friday/Saturday/Sunday; the city’s budgetary control that has been managed so well that for the first time in seven years the city does not need to tap its reserve to meet the annual budget; the thirteen acres of land purchased behind the Spa and the plan to spend \$2.25m to develop it as a park and is ready to start this year. Much of the \$2.25m is earmarked for site preparation.

Q: Is the \$2.25m in the approved budget?

A: Yes. The way it will work is that the money will be taken from the (Community Recreational Allowance???) CRA fund. The CRA is funded each year from the city budget, the CRA will essentially borrow the money from the general fund and pay it back over a number of years.

Q: What does the plan for the park consist of?

A: Currently the plan is in three phases after the site preparation. Phase one is the construction of walking and biking trails and a boardwalk. Phase two is the potential construction of a water park, boat slips and an observation tower. Phase three would possibly be the construction of a snack bar or similar building.

Q: Due to the proximity of Phillipe Park, isn't the construction of a another park considered to be redundant?

A: Phillipe Park is a County Park. The new park will belong to the city and is a way of keeping the city environmentally friendly and proving amenities for the city's residents.

Q: Trash pickup has recently been reduced to one day a week – do you not see this being an issue during the summer months when food is left to bake in the trash containers?

A: The change to the trash pickup cycle was based on two criteria: A state requirement to create less trash and increase recycling, and efficiencies in the system. The city is currently creating 30% less trash than before and recycling is up since the distribution of the bins that do not require user sorting of recyclables. One point that may have been overlooked is that on trash collection day, you may also put out up to ten bags of trash. As an alternative you may have an extra bin for \$16 per month. The vehicles used for collections are now able to pick up both the 90-gallon trash bins and the 60-gallon recycling bins. Reverting to the old system would mean the purchase of more vehicles that in turn would be under-utilized.

Q: Yard waste will only be collected if it is in 30-gallon containers – why not allow biodegradable bags?

A: Duly noted – will follow up.

Q: What can be done about houses in foreclosure that are in a state of disrepair?

A: The owners can be cited for code enforcement through the City.

Q: What is the standing of the Sheriff/Deputy allocation to the city?

A: The number of deputies is typically based upon crime level statistics. The level is relatively low, the benchmark level to raise the number of deputies/hours allotted to the city has not been reached.

Q: What is the plan for the field/property of the old school on Elm Street? Rumor is that it will be used for soccer fields.

A: It is too soon to make any decision. The property is owned by the county but will likely be passed on to the city after a number of years.

Q: In that case, can you consider planting perimeter bushes now so that they will be mature when the time does come.

A: Noted – an excellent suggestion.

Q: The crossing guard at 7th/Main Street is no longer there for kids crossing before/after school. A teacher said that not enough kids use the crossing so the guard was pulled.

A: Unfortunately, this is a school budget issue, not a city issue.

Q: Can you provide an update on what is happening with the Firmenich property?

A: The county has insisted that the property remains zoned as industrial – the reason being to attract businesses and increase employment in the county.

Q: What about the parcel of land at the north east corner of McMullen Booth and Union Street?

A: It is for sale – it is zoned heavy industrial but can be down-zoned for businesses such as offices or medical facilities, etc.

Q: Regarding the park behind the Spa, will the wetlands be protected?

A: Yes. The environment will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.