BOARD MEETING MINUTES 10-21-2025

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1. **Attendance:** Kathi Obendorfer, Jacky Skubik, Carol Amedio, Regina Kowalski, Eric Wickson, Taylor Meals, Joan Dobbins, Allan Nobles, and Jim Schepers attended by phone. Elaine Miller was excused but later joined the meeting at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Secretary Schepers previously distributed the minutes from the 9-16-2025 board meeting. Director Amedio made a motion to approve and seconded by Director Dobbins. Passed unanimously.
4. **Officer Reports:**

   A. President's Report: Kathi reported that she, directors Meals, Miller and Wickson had attended the October CRA Meeting. The CRA Advisory Board was going to make 4 recommendations to the Sarasota County Commissioners: 1) 65 parking spaces would cost 1.5 million. 2) 70 spaces for 1.6 million 3) 222 spaces in a garage for 9.1 million. 4) 296 spaces in a garage for 12 million. This comes after a traffic and occupancy survey in April, which cost $750,000. The survey was to determine the number of parking spaces that were available to the public in the business corridor on and around Dearborn Street. There was concern that the survey included parking spaces at a private lodge and church which are not available for public use and that April was the wrong time of the year to do such a study as this is not during a peak period of traffic. The survey concluded there were 1173 parking spaces available.

   There was a feeling that OEVA should make some recommendations to the county about the business usage of parking spaces. Director Meals remarked that a marketing study conducted in 2003 concluded that 100,000 retail square footage was necessary for a street the length of Dearborn. Dearborn Street needs redevelopment and to change the county code OEVA may need to seek guidance with the help of an attorney.

   The President related the changes with the local CRA representatives, and this change seems to influence the relationship with the organization. There was extended discussion on what OEVA should do

as an organization on driving retail traffic to businesses vs. community betterment for residents. OEVA will always support the community and work to turn Dearborn Street around.

The next topic was about the current board vacancy (seat # 9) and the termination of tenure on Seat #7(Caarol Amedio) and seat #8 (Joan Dobbins). Both Carol and Joan expressed their interest in continuing serving and running for reelection for another 3-year term. A candidate has been identified to fill seat#9. The board will request a current membership list from the internet chairman, Eric Peterson. The board will review the list for other possible candidates.

B. Vice President Report: None

C. Treasurer Report: Provided previously by email. Secretary Schepers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Director Dobbins. No discussion and the report was approved unanimously.

D. Secretary Report: None

5. Old Business:

A. Halloween Safe Walk: Director Kowalski reported that she has 75 applicants confirmed and will probably end up with about 100. Director Dobbins agreed to help Director Kowalski called the 13 people who did not register last year and see what they intend to do this year. She informed the board that the location of the registration table would be next to the DJ on Dearborn Street. She requested we develop a list of volunteers. We will use them for security and other assorted jobs.

She said that she had a conversation with Jessie Orlando with the CRA about trash and they recommended that the sponsor (OEVA) should handle trash pick-up and removal. There was considerable conversation on how and where the trash would be picked up and disposal.

Allan commented on the TUP (temporary use permit). He said it was not approved because of the Public Works director ‘s digital signature. The county was requesting a physical signature for approval. It will get done.

Secretary Schepers brought up the costume contest. It will be judged by the DJ and will have 4 classes with a $25 dollar prize for each class.

6. **New Business:**

   A. Christmas Winter Festival (12/13/2025) A parade and police presence in past years have caused large expenses to the event. This has led directors to consider limiting the festival to the confines of Pioneer Plaza. There was concern that a 3rd party was going to have a parade. We decided not to worry about what other people say or do.
   B. Annual Meeting location, date has been set for January 20, and the location will be at Artur's Restaurant from 5 to 7 p.m. Board nominations were discussed previously in the President's report.
   C. OEVA Community Trust was briefly discussed but then it was decided to table the subject for now.

7. **Announcements:**

   None.

   Next board meeting is scheduled to be 11/13/2025. Location: President Obendorfer's office.

8. **Adjourn:**

   Motion made by Joan Dobbins

   Seconded by Allan Nobles

   Time of Adjournment: ___5:56 p.m._____