BOARD MEETING MINUTES 9-16-2025

A FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT 501(c)4 CORPORATION

1. **Attendance:** Kathi Obendorfer, Jacky Skubik, Carol Amedio, Regina Kowalski, Eric Wickson, Elaine Miller and Taylor Meals. Joan Dobbins and Jim Schepers attended by phone. Allan Nobles was absent. President Obendorer welcomed the new 3 board members, and each member of the board gave a brief introduction of themselves.
2. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 4:01 p.m.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Secretary Schepers had previously sent minutes of the 8-8-2025 board meeting. Director Kowalski made a motion to approve and seconded by Director Amedio. Passed unanimously.
4. **Officer Reports:**

   A. President's Report: Kathi reported that she and Director Meals had attended the August CRA Meeting. She stated that OEVA had been mentioned at the meeting and that there was a possibility that OEVA would be placed back on the CRA agenda for future meetings. She requested board member participation at future CRA meetings.

   She talked about some of the disadvantages that have happened in recent years and a perceived lack of support from county officials. She hopes with the addition of additional board members that future communication might bring about some change.

   This led to a discussion of additional members to the board. We currently have 1 vacancy, but we are allowed by the by-laws to have a maximum of 15, which could allow for 4 more additions. She has talked to some candidates about the possibility of joining.

   Director Meals added some insight into the previous history of the organization and the history of Dearborn Street, and the types of businesses allowed. Director Miller shared some of her experiences concerning the organization and her perspective of Dearborn Street.

   All agreed there is needed improvement.

   B. Vice President Report: None

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

D. Secretary Report: None

5. Old Business:

A. Halloween Safe Walk: Director Kowalski reported that she had sent out 85 applications to last year's participants and had received about 20 completed applications back. She remarked that spot assignments are sometimes difficult, but this will occur closer to the event.

6. New Business:

A. Christmas Winter Festival (12/13/2025) Discussion began about the history and expense of the Christmas event. 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.

B. Annual Meeting location and date. President Obendorfer said that she was looking at Artur's Restaurant as a location and would try and confirm 1/20/2026 as the date. The time of the meeting would be from 5 to 7 p.m.

There was limited discussion on nominees for director positions and voting procedures. Directors Skubik and Miller will research and make recommendations to the board.

7. Announcements:

Secretary Schepers announced that due to family obligations he most likely would not be returning to Englewood until mid-late December.

President Obendorfer reported she would be undergoing surgery 9/25 and would be unavailable for a few weeks.

Next board meeting will be 10/21/2025 at Elise Quick Library in the conference room at 4 p.m.

8. Adjourn:

Motion made by Regina Kowalski

Seconded by Taylor Meals

Time of Adjournment: ___5:16 p.m._____