ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES 1-20-2025

A FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT 501(c)4 CORPORATION

1. Introductions and Attendance

Location: Englewoods on Dearborn

Directors Present: Kathi Obendorfer, (President), Jim Schepers, (Secretary), Jacky Skubik, (Treasurer), Allan Nobles, (Director), Merrill Hollinger, (Director), Regina Kowalski, (Director), and Joan Dobbins, (Director),

Directors Absent: John Majka, V.P.

In attendance: Deb Osburn, Kathleen Callahan, Patty Nobles, Sydney Martin, Sarah Glaser, Jeff Dillion, Leslie Brown, John Watson, and Kris Hartley.

Meeting called to order: President Kathi Obendorfer, recognizing a quorum, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Approval of Annual Minutes: Jim Schepers, (Secretary), read the minutes from the 1/16/2024 Annual Meeting. A motion to approve was made by Regina Kowalski, seconded by Allan Nobles, and passed unanimously.

2. Officer Reports

President Report: Kathi Obendorfer began by thanking everyone in attendance and recapped the various events that OEVA sponsored throughout the year, Cruisin on Dearborn, Halloween Safe Walk and the Christmas Parade.

She remarked that OEVA would not be sponsoring the Cruisin on Dearborn events for 2025 due to some negative responses the organization had received from various merchants on Dearborn Street. This remark produced approval from several members in attendance.

She commented on the Halloween Safe Walk and how we had a problem with unregistered participants which gave us a safety issue. We still will be sponsoring this event in 2025

She then turned to talking about the Christmas Parade and the success with the event. However, she informed the membership that we will be modifying this event some, as we encountered quite a bit of expense providing police protection and closing of Dearborn Street. Regina offered that we may change this to a festival-type event held primarily in Pioneer Park. She briefly described the issue vendors currently have with the Halloween Safe Walk and the Christmas Parade. Kathi closed by saying we will do something but probably not a parade.

She then told the membership we would not be sponsoring the Seafood Festival this year and the revenue from this event will be missed but offered that OEVA was considering a St. Patrick's Day event in Pioneer Plaza. This met with approval from some members present. Details will need to be firmed up.

Vice President's report: No report.

Treasurer Report: Jacky Skubik reported on the organization's assets. We currently have $5,598.43 in our checking account after December expenses. There is over $20,000 in a CD and the organization total assets are $21,595.39.

Secretary Report: Jim Schepers – The Secretary reported that 4 seats are available for filling this year. They are seats 4, 5,6, & 9. Currently, seats # 4 were filled by Kathi Obendorfer; #5 by Jim Schepers, # 6 by Merrill Hollinger. Their terms expired on Dec. 31, 2024. Seat #9 is currently vacant. These seats will be filled under New Business.

Required Committees

Executive Committee: Chaired by Kathi Obendorfer: Reference President report.

Finance Committee: Chaired by Jacky Skubik, Reference Treasurer Report.

Governance Committee: Chaired by Jim Schepers, No report.

Membership Committee: Chaired by

Other Committees

Arts Committee: Chaired by

Events Committee: Chaired by

Government Relations Committee: Chaired by

IT Committee: Chaired by Eric Peterson: No report.

3. New Business:

The Election for seats Number #4,5, & 6. Beginning with Seat #4, previously held by Kathi Obendorfer. Jim Schepers nominated Kathi for another term which was seconded by Joan Dobbins and passed unanimously.

Next was seat number 5 previously held by Jim Schepers. Jacky Skubik nominated Jim and seconded by Regina Kowalski and passed unanimously. Seat #6 was next. Jim Schepers nominated Merrill Hollinger and seconded by Allan Nobles and passed unanimously. There were no additional qualified members who wish to serve, as the by-laws state that a person to be elected to the Board must be a paid member for 1 continuous year. Those members present who qualified expressed their feelings and reasons why they chose not to apply for seat #9. The Board will look to fill seat 9 at their next board meeting immediately following this Annual Meeting.

4. Announcements:

The Board then took questions from the audience. John Watson began by describing Discover Dearborn, which is held the 4th Tuesday of every month and invited everyone to participate. He went on to describe the First Responders" Memorial that will be placed in Veterans Memorial area at the end of Dearborn Street. He said the date would be 2/20/2025.

Kris Hartley added some additional comments on other events and noted her satisfaction with the Board's decision to cancel sponsorship of Cruisin on Dearborn. She remarked people would pull into the parking space in front of her business, get out and just walk away until the end of the event and then drive away.

Kathleen Callahan asked the Board to reconsider our decision to drop our membership in the Englewood Chamber of Commerce. She thought that it would benefit the organization to rejoin the Chamber. Several other members joined in the discussion of membership in the Chamber. The Board will take up the issue at our Board meeting.

Sidney Martin gave the Board an update on the Arts Colony and informed us of the upcoming events including a Woodstock event in February. She noted several projects completed by the Arts Colony, including the Turtle Garden and the painted statutes on Dearborn Street.

Patty Nobles asked about the benefits of belonging to OEVA. This produced a lot of ideas about benefits that various individuals see as value in the organization. Most centered around how OEVA is a bridge between the community and the merchants on Dearborn. John Watson talked about how OEVA needs more visibility and be the heartbeat of the community. He talked about providing value to the member. This sparked a conversation about membership value with Leslie Brown and Merrill Hollinger providing insight from a merchant's perspective.

The meeting concluded with a general discussion about the use of Facebook to reach out to the merchants on Dearborn Street and other ways to stay in touch with members.

5. Motion to Adjourn:

Made by Joan Dobbins_____,

Seconded by Jacky Skubik_____,

Time of adjournment was 6:29 p.m.

Date: 1/20/2025