BOARD MEETING MINUTES 6-16-2026

A FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT 501(c)4 CORPORATION

1. Introductions and Attendance: Elaine Miller, Leslie Brown, Eric Wickson, Taylor Meals, Regina Kowalski, J.P. Eason and Jim Schepers. Debbie Marks, Kathi Obendorfer and Allan Nobles were excused. The members present introduced themselves to J.P. Eason attending his first meeting.
2. Call to Order: President Miller called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. EST
3. Approval of the March Board Meeting (3-17-2026): The minutes were sent previously by email. Taylor Meals made motion to approve and was seconded by Leslie Brown. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Officer Reports:

Vice President Report: Kathi was excused from meeting, so no report.

Treasurer Report: Secretary Schepers had previously emailed the reports for April and May. There was some brief discussion about the accounts at Centennial Bank and Chase Bank. He encouraged that as an organization it would be better to have someone as Treasurer, but that Kathi and he would continue until the situation became unworkable. Eric Wickson made a motion to approve the reports, and it was seconded by Taylor Meals. Motion approved unanimously.

Secretary Report: Secretary Schepers indicated we are still seeking someone to fill position #2 vacated by Jacky Skubik. Her position along with positions #1 (Allan Nobles), position #3 (Regina Kowalski), position #10 (Eric Wickson), expires on 12/31/2026. If someone would like to try out a board position, 2 would be good to fit for remainder of this year.

The meeting was then turned over to President Miller for her comments.
The President began by giving new board member J.P. Eason a little history on the past functions and events of OEVA and how they interacted with the CRA Advisory Board and downtown merchants. Board member Taylor Meals also added some past experiences and history from previous OEVA boards. After a few questions from Mr. Eason and answers from board members, the President moved to the agenda.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Dearborn Street Parking Garage. The President moved to the agenda and asked that the Holiday Decorations be moved to the end of agenda. Discussion started about the parking garage. The question was whether OEVA should make a commitment to additional parking for Dearborn Street. The board is aware that the CRA Advisory Board is considering making a recommendation to the Sarasota County Commission on a parking solution for Dearborn Street. Each member present gave their feelings about what the parking solution should be. This provided much side discussion on churches and certain special exceptions granted by Sarasota County. This culminated in the establishment of a MSOD Analysis Committee, consisting of the President and members, Leslie Brown and Taylor Meals.

After much discussion it was decided to recommend to the CRA Advisory Board our support for a multi-level garage and to draft an open letter to the Sarasota County Commissioners indicating our preference.

B. Connectivity to Royal Palm & Englewood Beach. Discussion centered on the golf cart shuttle service from Englewood Beach. Estimates of 30,000 trips yearly from Manasota Key to Englewood Beach businesses and how a service like that may work for Dearborn Street businesses. This might help parking situation downtown and provide foot traffic for business. Additionally, the concept has merit for a partnership with the Royal Palm Marina area which is being developed and new restaurant and other possibilities.

C. Monthly car show: Moved to next meeting. Some quick comments on past problems and obstacles.

D. Marketing and website: Moved to next meeting. The President has been unable to meet with vendor.

E. Holiday Decoration Contest: Director Brown passed out some copies of a plan she had put together for a Holiday Celebration & Decorating Program designed to complement the holiday decorations the CRA Advisory Board is purchasing for old downtown Englewood. The event is to create a holiday event that will increase foot traffic, support local businesses and strengthen relationships with them, while sponsoring community organizations.

She gave her ideas on what the contest should include and how to involve merchants. There were questions but the major one seemed to be about the timing of the event. Would this complement the winter festival, or would this

be a separate event lasting past our traditional event. Talk about how it could be incorporated and developed but no final decision was made.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

   None at present.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Secretary asked Director Kowalski if there was anything the Board needed to do at present for the October Safe Walk. She reported nothing at present time.

   Next meeting is 7/21/2026 at 4 p.m. Location is Chamber Community Room.

8. **ADJOURN:** Jim Schepers _____

   Seconded by: _Eric Wickson_____

   Time of Adjournment: 5:34 EDT__