BOARD MEETING MINUTES 7-21-2026

A FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT 501(c)4 CORPORATION

1. Introductions and Attendance: Elaine Miller, Leslie Brown, Taylor Meals, Regina Kowalski, J.P. Eason and Kathi Obendorfer. Jim Schepers attended by phone. Eric Wickson, Debbie Marks, and Allan Nobles were excused. Kathi Obendorfer re-introduced herself to J.P. Easom. They had met previously at the annual meeting.
2. Call to Order: President Miller called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.
3. Approval of the June Board Meeting minutes (6-16-2026). The minutes were sent previously by email. Taylor Meals made motion to approve and was seconded by Regina Kowalski. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Officer Reports:

Vice President Report: Kathi Obendorfer who was excused from the last meeting, affirmed the board's decision to recommend a multi-level parking garage to both the CRA Advisory Board and the Sarasota County Commissioners. She felt this would go a long way in helping with the local parking problem.

She also resigned from the Board. She indicated that health problems and other pressures were impacting her negatively. She indicated a willingness to assist with the upcoming Halloween Safe Walk and any additional aid in transitioning from the Board.

Treasurer Report: Secretary Schepers had previously emailed the report for the month of June. There was some brief discussion about the accounts at Centennial Bank and Chase Bank and the desire to move these accounts to a local bank. J.P. Eason suggested Crews Bank and volunteered to do some initial research on the possible consolidation of the Centennial and Chase bank accounts. The President appointed Mr. Eason to go ahead with his research and discussions with Crews Bank. Taylor Meals made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Regina Kowalski. Motion approved unanimously.

Secretary Report: Secretary Schepers indicated we are still seeking someone to fill position #2 vacated by Jacky Skubik. Now with Kathi Obendorfer's resignation, seat #4, with a term ending 12/31/2027, another vacancy is available. There was some quick discussion on how to approach these vacancies, with the board coming to a mutual agreement that the candidates

should go through some sort of interview process before being appointed to the board.
The meeting was then turned over to President Miller for her comments.
The President began by praising and thanking Kathi Obendorfer for her service to OEVA. Kathi had shepherd the organization through some tough years.
She turned her attention to the recent hearing on Buchan's Bayside Development. She indicated that a special exception was made by the County Commission on the property concerning the mixed use. The developer will only have to have commercial use on part of the parcel. This differs from the original zoning.
This led to further discussion about density, MSOD special exceptions, and architectural standards. The board agreed it must remain vigilant in reviewing and supporting future developments. Members also noted that additional parking will likely remain an ongoing priority.
J.P. Eason asked a question if OEVA supported short term rental. Although there is no official stance on the issue, it started a conversation about various pros and cons. Members expressed several opinions concern their interpretations of Sarasota County regulations on short term rental, but the president thought there was a new state law that might supersede the county. The question was tabled. The President returned the board's attention to the agenda.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Monthly car show. The car show continues monthly on the first Saturday without the support of OEVA sponsorship. Kathi Oberndorfer expressed her experience from past CRA meetings, where merchants expressed negativity about the event. This led to OEVA's sponsorship withdrawal. It was decided to maintain this position and review again at start of next year.

B. Connectivity to Royal Palm. The president noted that work had begun on the new restaurant at Royal Palm. A discussion began concerning a beach coalition with them and the use of a golf shuttle to downtown Dearborn Street businesses. For a free shuttle to work in would need the support of advertising dollars from merchants.

C. Marketing and website. The president has met with the vendor, and work will start on August 1. A meeting between the current webmaster, and a couple of board members, needs to be established to facilitate the transition.

D. Halloween Safe Walk. The secretary and president will meet with Kathi Obendorfer next week to begin the process of a county temporary use permit (TUP) and street closure for the event.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Holiday Decoration Contest. Board member Leslie Brown presented her latest update on this event. She announced that the Chamber of Commerce will do a Holiday Lighting on December 3rd. She is proposing a Holiday Decorating Contest to coincide with the lighting event. She hopes to have at least 15 businesses involved in participating. Individual participants would visit these businesses and have a score card validated. The business winner and community participant winner could be recognized at the OEVA Winter Festival. There was discussion that businesses might be able to access funds available through the CRA's downtown storefront program.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The President polled individual board members for announcements. J.P. Eason will contact Crews Bank for research on accounts. Taylor Meals will act as our liaison to CRA Advisory Board meetings. The secretary announced that the next CRA Advisory meeting is 8/10/2026 and the next board meeting would be 8/18/2026 at 4 p.m. Location is Chamber Community Room for both meetings.

8. **ADJOURN:** Taylor Meals _____

Seconded by: _Leslie Brown_____

Time of Adjournment: 5:21 EDT__