

VHA Advisory Board (AB) Meeting Minutes

Laurel Manor 1:00 PM June 14, 2023

Advisory Board Members - Present: Karl Arps, Mike Burke, Jim DeCastro, Mike Dollard, Peggy Fiore, Dan Kapellen, Sandy Mott, Kathy Porter, Peter Russell, Sandra Rzepecki, Joan Sullivan, Mike Williamson

Advisory Board Members - Absent: Tweet Coleman, Mike Cullipher, Dave Fountaine, Nicolas Hemes, Beth Musser, Jan Palmer

Call to order: President Peter Russell called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence acknowledged the passing of Bob Griffin Asst Director Region 6 who served the VHA for many years and Skip McDonnell a Board member of VHA Helping Hands who also gave many years supporting the VHA.

Welcome: Peter welcomed the new Assistant Vice President Central Dan Kapellen.

Previous Minutes: Peter asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May 10, 2023. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Mike Dollard stated VHA financials are progressing satisfactorily. Peter reminded Board members they may contact Mike for a copy of the full report. mjdollard@hotmail.com

Monthly Reports

North VP: Karl Arps reported signing five (5) Neighborhood Representatives: Bob and Elma Grable, Ray Viall, Mel and Cherie Paisley and Phyllis Archibald. Wednesday June 28, 2023 at 9:00 am the quarterly NR meeting will feature the Deputy Commander of CERT. Central and South NRs are welcome to attend. Peter advised Area VPs to invite NRs from the other regions to all quarterly NR meetings and ask for an RSVP.

Karl noted there are VHA memberships in 2,513 north homes.

The November 15, 2023 NR meeting will be an Appreciation event for the NRs.

Asst Central VP: Dan reported Central region created a "Volunteers Needed" sign to recruit NRs and post at VHA events. June 5, 2023 at Sea Breeze Dan presented a program about living a quality life in retirement. More people attended than anticipated and extra chairs had to be set up. Likely the article Dan had published in the Daily Sun newspaper helped promote the program.

The Central region is preparing a survey for NRs with three (3) multiple choices along with asking why they volunteered to become an NR. This survey will also ask what resources would help them as NRs. This survey will be sent to Peter to review before sending.

Asst South VP: Mike Williamson reported they are working on getting NR bios up-to-date. NRs have been recruited to assist the two (2) shifts at the Lifestyle Expo on the second Fridays at Ezell Recreation Center. NRs are already signed up to cover July.

CDD 13 Supervisor Tina Williamson (Mike's wife) met with South NRs, VP Dave Fountaine and Mike to work on presenting possible solutions of an ongoing traffic issue to the Developer in a way that is not contentious.

Many South residents have concerns about the Duke Energy transformers. The company has agreed to meet monthly with residents to address this.

Foundation: Chair Peggy Fiore explained the committee is working to move forward on the hurricane relief effort.

New Resident Night (NRN): Peter reported 24 guests attended last night's NRN. The guests benefitted from the presentations but the vendor representatives were concerned over the low attendance. Serious thought will be given about location and timing of NRN in 2024.

Golf Cart Safety: Peter reported as per the new State law children are no longer allowed to drive a golf cart at 14 years of age. Driving a golf cart at 16 is allowed if driver has a learner's permit and at 18 with a driver's license.

The 9:00 am August 16, 2023 Golf Cart Safety Clinic will be relocated to Eisenhower Recreation Center while Colony Recreation Center undergoes maintenance. Area VPs are asked to pass this information to NRs.

Head of Executive Golf Maintenance Mitch Leininger promoted Good Golf School at PWAC. This program should also be promoted through the Area VPs to their NRs. Dave's recent article emphasized the need for stewardship on golf courses.

Membership: Kathy Porter explained there are 8,215 active households in the database. While out-of-town June 26-July 12 Kathy will work remotely. Assistant Membership Chair Sandra Rzepecki will provide back up if needed. The Combined Membership Report April & May 2023 is attached to these minutes. **SEE APPENDIX**

Social Events: Mike Burke explained a time of event error was published for the June 12 Trivia Night. Nicolas Hemes was a big help in organizing guests who arrived too early and were already seated inside the room. Nicolas helped Mike collect the entrance fee. Ninety (90) people attended and VHA profit is \$410. Charter Research provided money for the cash prizes and the audience was attentive to their representative Kelsey as she promoted their program. Tom Gourlay did a great job and is booked to present “Family Feud” at the 6:30 pm August 14, 2023 Social Events at Ezell Recreation Center.

Peter noted that both Charter Research and K-2 are willing to sponsor VHA events.

Marketing: Peter explained program leaders are to send information early to Jim DeCastro for eblasts to members in order for Jim to send fourteen (14) days ahead of an event and a reminder three (3) days ahead. jimdecastro@gmail.com
Contact reporter Keith Pearlman to post articles in the Daily Sun newspaper.

Peter noted a great deal of work is going on to improve VHA promotions with meetings set up with professional marketing people.

Bingo: Mike D. reported a low number of 107 guests attended May Bingo which may have been due to Memorial Day weekend. The next Bingo is 6:30 pm June 20, 2023 at Ezell RC.

Voice: Jan Palmer emailed a request that articles for July need to be sent on schedule.

Peter explained the Voice first printed in the Local News section of the Daily Sun newspaper was initially processed through the advertising department. This has been revised and is now been processed through the same staff that worked with the Voice when it was a newspaper supplement. Note: Board Member Peter Moeller is working to coordinate VHA communications.

Facebook: Jim DeCastro explained he is working to improve consistency of Facebook postings. NRs coordinate VHA Facebook with neighborhood Facebook pages.

Website: Peter reported the Voice is now posted on the VHA website in newsletter form to reach those members who do not subscribe to the Daily Sun.

AAC: Sandy Mott reported the Neighborhood Watch is being expanded which raised many questions at AAC and PWAC.

Plans for rebuilding the Paradise Recreation have been approved for the \$20,000,000 expense. The final design decision is for a resort style pool.

La Hacienda Recreation Center catering service has been removed and approval given to renovate the area for table tennis. District Government added a satellite office to La Hacienda RC.

CDD 1: Kathy reported the \$115,000 survey by Kimberly-Horn has been completed and will be discussed at a Town Hall meeting 7:00 pm August 30, 2023 in La Hacienda RC.

Old Business

Town Hall Revisions: Area VPs are asked to encourage NRs to attend at 9:30 am July 18, 2023 for the Meet & Mingle ahead of the 10:00 am Town Hall meeting in Laurel Manor Recreation Center. The formal meeting is revised to present only one or two questions to the Partners followed by Heather Long UF Health Central Florida CEO who will give an overview of UF Health and The Villages Hospital. An Issues Team will handle questions from members as they are sent avoiding the wait for answers at a quarterly meeting. VHA Town Hall as revised will provide an opportunity for VHA leaders and NRs to receive in-depth information of a current topic they may pass on to the Villages residents.

Health & Wellness Expo: Peter explained new Board member Modesto Alcala with his experience is a great help to the Health and Wellness planning committee. This event will be a forum for residents. A survey will be sent to members to help determine key participants. More volunteers will be needed for this event.

Q. Who is the coordinator for this event?

A. Currently Peter Russell until a coordinator is selected.

New Business

Name Badge Order: New name badges have been ordered from Custom Apparel for all VHA leaders and NRs with the revised VHA logo. Note the 501(c)(3) statements sent to all VHA leaders. This language has been approved and must be used if adding to documents.

Sponsors & Patrons: The Merchants to Members program is being replaced and reversed to ask merchants to become a sponsor or patron of the VHA and its philanthropic efforts. Merchants who become sponsors/patrons will be promoted by the VHA.

Revised General Meetings: September and December general meetings are cancelled. The March general meeting will be a celebration to honor VHA Awards recipients and an Appreciation event to honor VHA volunteers and NRs. Refreshments will be served.

Harassment: Peter explained the importance of respecting all VHA colleagues and guests. The VHA does not approve a hostile environment of yelling at someone to make a point. If a person declines a hug, then hugging that person is an inappropriate act of harassment.

SEE: VHA POLICY 3.2 SEXUAL HARASSMENT SENT WITH THIS MEETING'S MINUTES

General Discussion

“Evening With the Developer”: Comment: “Peter did a great job at Developer’s Night!” Peter explained the format will be similar for next year.

VHA Documents: Document Manager Sandra Rzepecki reminded members to send documents and updated document to her for storing on the website. Be sure to add the date to the bottom of all documents. Sandra.rzepecki@yahoo.com

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sullivan

Appendix

MEMORANDUM

To: Peter Russell, President

From: Kathy Porter, Membership Chair

Date: June 14, 2023

Re: Combined Report April & May 2023

Total Number of new and renewal memberships for April and May:

- 209 – 2 year
- 37 – Lifetime
- 8,215 households
- 14,787 members

We had 2 new members at last night's New Resident Night.

I will be out of town from June 26 to July 12. I will have my computer with me and will be able to deal with issues while away. Sandra Rzepecki will back me up if I can't handle long distance.