

ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
Sage – Club Room
Approved Minutes

1. **Call to Order** : The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Karen Carmichael.
2. **Establish Quorum**: Present were Karen Carmichael, Scott Clark, , Grace Steinhauser, Martha Shibley, Deborah Stewart, John Waechter, Al May, and Steve Phillips
3. **Approval of agenda**: After a motion and second, the agenda was approved.
4. **Approval of minutes**: After a motion and second, the minutes for the June 8, 2022 Board Meeting were approved.
5. **Officers' Reports**:
 - a) **Treasurer's Report**: John Waechter reported on fund balances of \$17, 198.13. He also outlined the progress towards our attaining status as a 503c3 organization, which is now pending approval by the state before filing with the IRS.
 - b) **Membership**: Scott reported that we have 208 members at this point, 18 fewer than last year as of this date, probably due to the change in membership sign-ups.
 - c) **President's Report**: Karen reported that she had met with Gina Driscoll and that plans for the city's renewal of Williams Park's bandshell appears to be approved, as part of a \$900,000 Open Spaces Fund.
6. **Community Events Reports**:
 - a. **Social**: Deborah reported that we have three porch parties coming up: October 26 at the Cordova; December 6 at Florida Crafts; a return to American Stage, January 31.
 - b. **Yoga Classes**: Karen discussed options with the two remaining classes covered by the grant, and it was decided to schedule the two on Saturday mornings (dates to be announced) to test participation at that time.
 - c. **Free Clinic Food Drive**: Al May updated the Board on progress towards the November Free Clinic Food Drive, and it was decided to have barrels onsite at the condos from November 21 to November 28, with liaisons to various condos notified early enough to get approval from their boards in time.
 - d. **EDGE Halloween**. After a motion and vote it was approved that we expend \$500 to sponsor Mr. Robb, a street artist, as our contribution to the event. We will also have a table at the affair, which we can use to attract new membership.
9. **Unfinished Business**:
 - a. **Williams Park**: Karen and Deborah updated the Board with possible additions to the DNA's contribution to the Williams Park renewal, including refurbishment of the fountain area, a mural behind the fountain, landscaping behind the fountain and possibly in the potted plants, a dog-waste station, bistro tables which could be used for DNA-connected events in the park, trash receptacles, and new signage. The total budget, if all is

included, would be @\$10,000, with costs split between the DNA and the City. Karen will continue working with the City to come up with an approvable plan, and she presented power-point of some of the elements being considered. We also agreed to concentrate on “one corner” of the park, hoping that other civic groups would “adopt” other corners.

b. **Addition to DNA Webpages:** Scott demonstrated a mock-up of a new feature on the DNA website, which would detail progress and plans for the Williams Park renewal.

c. **Help Cards:** Deborah provided copies of the new “Help is Available” wallet-sized card, which will be provided to the Board and members for distribution to unhoused people they may encounter. It gives advice about providers of shelter, hygiene, and food.

d. **Williams Park Clean-up** Karen will work with KPB to come up with a date for another Williams Park clean-up for November

e. **CONA Update:** Martha, who is our delegate to CONA, updated the Board on the first evaluation of the CALL program, which aims to divert non-criminal and non-violent 911 calls to appropriate social service personnel and agencies, also to reduce the number of 911 calls. The statistics look quite promising, with several thousand positive cases dealt with since the inception of the program.

10. **New Business:**

a. **Brick Street Farms:** Grace presented information about Brick Street Farms, a hydroponic grower of fresh greens and other products. They wish to publicize the fact that they have a retail store and membership plan. Early this fall, they will offer a 10% discount to DNA members for a ten-day period to acquaint them with the store.

b. **October General Meeting:** Karen suggested that the Free Clinic, Library, and League of Women Voters present at the October 12 General Membership meeting, and consensus approved the idea.

c. **Nominating Committee:** Scott and Martha have volunteered to serve as this year’s nominating committee for Board seats, and Grace will be doing media outreach to locate candidates. Steve will coordinate the bio submissions.

12. **Adjourn:** After a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Phillips, Secretary