

**ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
(SPDNA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2017
APPROVED**

A meeting of SPDNA Board of Directors was held on January 26, 2017 at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club immediately following the SPDNA town hall presentation regarding the Rowdies by Rick Baker of the Edwards Group. The primary purpose of the special meeting was to determine whether or not the SPDNA was going to send a letter of support to Major League Soccer (MLS) regarding the Rowdies application.

Call to Order: Gina Driscoll, SPDNA President, called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m.

Roll Call: Board Members present – Gina Driscoll, President; Mark Ferrulo, Vice-President; Bill White, Secretary; Al May, Treasurer, Paul Carder; Al Scafati; John Mason; Steve Phillips; John Waechter; Terry Rimer.

Quorum Established.

New Business:

Rowdies MLS Application: The Edwards Group has reached out to the SPDNA to see if the SPDNA would write a letter in support of the Rowdies MLS application. Such support from the SPDNA and other city entities will better enable the Rowdies chances of being accepted into the MLS. A May city referendum, if passed, would give the Mayor and City Council the authority to negotiate with The Edwards Group on the use of this city-owned land and Al Lang Stadium and extend the lease up to 25 years contingent upon the Rowdies being accepted into the MLS. The Edwards Group will pay for the May referendum and stadium renovation costs. However, stadium renovation would not exceed the current stadium footprint. Additional seating to accommodate 18,000 fans will be constructed on the south and west sides of the stadium, increasing the height of the current stadium to no higher than the Mahaffey Theater.

If all contingencies come to pass, Board members expressed concerns about the proposed stadium renovation, associated construction, noise, trash, lights, concerts, obstructed residential views, traffic, etc. Many of these issues were also expressed to Rick Baker in the town hall. It was discussed that resident concerns should more importantly be brought forth to the Mayor and City Council. The consensus of the Board was that the Rowdies support ultimately will depend on the outcome of the referendum and any subsequent city negotiation. Specifically, 1) SPDNA and resident concerns need to be addressed with the Mayor and City Council; 2) this initiative would be financially good for the city; 3) supporting the Rowdies MLS application does not mean at this juncture that we support every aspect of the renovation and proposed land use; 4) supporting the Rowdies MLS application does not mean that individual Board members will vote Yes on the referendum. It was noted that any lease/use agreement will require a super-majority vote of the Council to go into effect.

Motion: Upon a motion duly made and seconded and approved by a majority of the Board Members, the SPDNA will write a letter in support of the Rowdies MLS application.

Next Board Meeting Date: February 8, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m. Location TBD.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by Terry Rimer
SPDNA Board Member