

## **Sorrento Cay Homeowners Association**

### **Annual Membership Meeting**

**February 19, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Debbie Gates at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nokomis, Florida.

It was established that a quorum was met, all five Board members were present, and notice of the meeting was posted.

Richard Sheehan, Secretary, read the minutes of 2/20/2019 which were seconded and approved as read.

President Gates discussed the street light situation on Islamorada because there were comments about inadequate lighting made at the 2019 meeting. Florida Power and Light has installed LED bulbs which are much brighter, and homeowners have individual lights so there does not appear to be a need for more. It is cost prohibitive with our finances to install a new street light.

President Gates then reviewed the status of our Sorrento Cay. There are 41 owners, 46 lots, and 8 rentals. All owners of rental properties know that only two tenants a year are allowed. New homeowners are Vincent Caperna and Emily Schmitz at 405 Tortuga, and Chris and Oksana Mills at 2495 Broad. We have a website where information about Sorrento Cay is readily available.

The ponds were given a comprehensive inspection by SWFWMD (Southwest Florida Water Management District) in 2019 and all aspects were well above minimum requirements. Tim Reifschneider from Beautiful Ponds then spoke on pond health. The ponds, especially the sections connecting one pond to the other, were successfully bio-dredged to reduce detritus which had accumulated over the 60 years since they were dug. The worst buildup was in the part from Goya Avenue into the south lake. Mechanical dredging would have been prohibitively expensive and required measures such as analysis of the bio-waste for heavy metals.

Tim's current emphasis is on control of invasive species and fertilizer runoff. He emphasized the need to reduce fertilizer use, put it down only when no rain is expected, and put no fertilizer within ten feet of any pond. Invasive species include tilapia which were introduced when the lakes were originally dug. They have taken over the lakes.

A question was asked about the dark color of the water at the east end of the south pond, and the lack of birds and other wildlife. Tim said that there are bacteria which can be used for lake

clarity, and the lack of birds is due to only a few plants on the water's edge where birds can hide. Beautiful Ponds can plant spike rush, arrowhead and pickerel weed at the lake edges which will give cover for birds and also help prevent erosion. There has been some buildup of water lilies on the west end of the south pond. These can be thinned out. Tim will provide a list of native plants. Any further actions the Board may wish Beautiful Ponds to take on these concerns will be investigated.

Lou Pertz presented the budget. Due to running a slight deficit based on recurring expenses, the semi-annual dues will be raised from \$180 to \$190 per lot, or from \$360 to \$380 annually. The Board has the authority to set the assessment, so no homeowner vote was needed. Lou has also looked into the liability insurance cost, and it may be possible to reduce it by about half. Also, he will look into purchasing a certificate of deposit with some of the money market funds to earn a little more interest.

There was a motion to accept the budget which was seconded and approved.

As to new business, a proposal was made to clean and plant some vegetation around the fences at each corner, possibly making this a community project around Earth Day. Some residents believe that only the four fences with the Sorrento Cay signs be maintained, and that other fences will be left to the discretion of the homeowners with corner lots. Tim Reifschneider will provide a list of native plants. The proposal will be tabled for now pending an investigation of any restrictions the county might have on removal or treatment of the signs.

Also noted was that the orchard across from the west end of Islamorada Drive has been sold for development of houses. It was hoped that the county can obtain an easement so that all of Islamorada Drive can be widened and paved. This will be investigated.

President Debbie Gates announced that this will be her last year as President, and called for any homeowner who might wish to serve on the next board to contact a member of the board. Lou Pertz will take over the Treasurer's job from Heather Johnson for the coming year.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved at 8:03 PM.