

Oak Grove Beach Community Association

September 12, 2022

Members Present: Jim Weaver (JW), Carole Capodiece (CC), Chris Jagel (CJ), Mark Konney (MK), Ryan Williams (RW), Stacey Stevens (SS), Pam Moriarty (PM)

Absent: Maddalena Scrivano (MS), Tom Gardner (TG), Thene McIntire (TH)

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Weaver at 7:08 pm. Motion to approve minutes of the August 8, 2022, meeting was made by MK, seconded by RW. Motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2022, minutes was made by MK, seconded by RW. Both passed unanimously. JW announced that one of our long-time members, Paul DeBartolo passed away. An email will be sent out with details of services planned.

Treasures Report: JW reported the treasurers report from Allison Murphy as follows:

Checking account: \$7,280.59

Savings Account: \$11,992.24

Pond Account: \$1,790.00

These numbers reflect payments made of the pond algae treatments as well as the seawall and walkway repairs. There is one delinquent taxpayer. All three associate members have paid the increased fee this year of \$500.00. This fee will continue next year.

Holiday Party: The Yacht Club has been secured as well as the ponies for December 17, 2022. More details to follow.

Website/Emails: The website has been updated with the new members. Email lists have also been updated.

Beach Lot: Thank you to Ryan and the following members (Emily, Bryce, Brody, Quinn, Kevin, Stacey, Mark, Cindy, Michelle, Matt and Jim) who helped to clean up the beach lot of invasive plants. If we have left someone out, I apologize. It looks great!

Beach Cleaning: TG submitted facts regarding the service provided by Mike Nebelung this summer. In conclusion, he felt there were many areas not satisfactory, customer service lacking. JW had five points regarding the beach: 1. Beach looked good all summer. 2. Feedback he had received was all positive. 3. No negative feedback received from the Yacht Club. 4. Extra pickups were not done, however that saved OGBCA money. 5. There was no customer service. We may need to look at alternative services and quotes. JW will contact Mike Nebelung to see if he still has interest in the job. MK and TG will research other options over the next few months and come back to the board with quotes. RW suggested we have a standard RFP for services we want contracted so the quotes can be compared fairly.

Pond: Thank you to CJ who coordinated the contracting with Underwater C and D Maintenance to clear the pond of the debris floating on top. It looks great! The edges were difficult to clean, but hopeful that the tidal flushing will clear that out. The debris was pulled out and deposited on the Oak Grove property to dry out before disposal. Mike Nebelung will be the most cost-efficient way to dispose of it at \$100.00 per hour. The eco Harvester used only one day to complete the job. An email went out to OGBCA regarding cost increases if a second day was needed and seven members offered to contribute as well as the 15 regular contributors. As CJ has been in discussion with many varied companies regarding the long-term pond maintenance, he has found that the copper sulfate treatments may not be the best for the overall health of the pond. He has found a company called "Beautiful Ponds" in Florida which use a natural chemical (microbial dredging) that "eats" away at the sludge in the bottom of the pond. It is applied over weekly treatments for a month, followed by four more monthly treatments. The cost is approximately \$3800.00 for the first month and \$600.00 per month after. There is a cost for the product and then shipping as well. These costs are only estimates. Beautiful Pond employees directed CJ to contact Ecological Labs, the company dealing with the microbes. RW stressed that neighbors need to buy into taking care of the pond regarding fertilizing etc. and its water flow into the pond. JW says that OGBA has managed the pond account over the years and should we revisit or restructure. CC suggested that we may consider developing a "Friends of Davis Pond" including the pond owners as well as interested people to coordinate long term management of the pond. RW feels the need to hire an outside company to take an in depth look at the pond and its needs for the future. Connecticut College may have staff or students to evaluate and give ideas. JW states that Davis Pond is unique with the ocean water flow in and out, as well as the town run off water pipes drain into the pond. JW then asked how do board members feel we should continue with management of the pond? CJ, who is not an owner of the pond, does not want to take on an owner-based committee and will only stay involved if OGBCA maintains the control citing liability and other concerns. There was discussion as to stay on course as we have until the spring and then re-evaluate. As we need to meet for discussion regarding the beach cleaning, a motion was made by MK, seconded by CC to meet again within two months to discuss pond options as well. Motion carries, with one opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.