



## **Marco Island Fire Rescue Foundation Board Meeting, Thursday, September 8, 2016, Minutes**

**Present:** Roy Birkeland, Gene Burson, John Coff, Jim Curran, Dianna Dohm, Cheryl Ferrara, Barbara Murphy, Tina Nash, Jack Patterson, Marty Roddy, Val Simon, Mike Stapleton, Steve Stefanides and Fire Chief Mike Murphy.

**Absent:** Darcie Guerin, Pete Guerin and Lou Prigge (leave of absence).

**Guest:** City Manager Roger Hernstadt

The meeting was called to order by President Dianna Dohm at 4 p.m.

### **Approval of March Minutes**

Marty Roddy moved the board approve the minutes of April 14, 2016. Jim Curran seconded and all approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer John Coff presented a summary of August income, expenditures and current accounts. Total cash balance as of August 31, 2016, was \$112,802. Scholarship account balance was \$12,786 (included in the previous total). Cheryl Ferrara moved the treasurer's report be accepted as presented pending audit. Barbara Murphy seconded and all approved.

### **City Manager Report**

Roger Hernstadt reported Marco Island City Council approved its budget, decreasing millage rates for the 2017 fiscal year. He explained the "bucket list" was fully funded, allowing police and fire departments upgrades and replacements. The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) is currently under study. The Police Department has a new boat for patrolling canals. Plans are underway for developing Veterans' Community Park with public vetting integral to the process. The racquet and bocce courts will be refurbished.

### **Membership Committee Update**

Jim Curran reported renewals are close to last year's membership with new renewal still being received. Current renewals bring membership to 149 with 96 families and 53 corporate members. With renewals, 53 carwash coupons were requested and 32 anniversary books sold. Following each renewal, President Dianna Dohm sent a personal letter. Peyton Batiato, the new honorary student director, mailed applications to 87 chamber members and received 12 new memberships in return.

### **Grants & Awards Committee Requests**

Steve Stefanides reported the committee received three requests during the summer. One department member received \$500 to help with expenses while unable to work full time. Another department member received \$1000 for immediate assistance after his child was born with a heart defect that required out-of-town surgery.

## **Board Development**

Dianna Dohm reported the secretary's position will be open in March 2017. The board discussed replacement options and names will be forthcoming. There was consensus from the board that a new director with legal knowledge would be an asset. Also, the board agreed to the status of honorary board director for Peyton Batiato.

## **UPDATES**

### **50th Anniversary Book**

The board discussed a mailing for selling books as Christmas presents. Val Simon asked if books currently at sales locations were being monitored, replaced and money recovered. No one was assigned to follow up on the question at the meeting. Another suggestion was hosting a Chamber after Five where the books could be sold.

### **9-11 Remembrance Ceremony**

All preparations are done for the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Sept. 11. A luncheon and program will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Center of the San Marco Catholic Church. The program will be preceded by a special Mass at San Marco Catholic Church where first responders will be honored. Kretch's will cater lunch. The program will include remarks from the police and fire chiefs, a police color guard, and the solemn ringing of the bell. The San Marco choir will perform patriotic music. Special thanks to Jim Curran for his chairmanship of this occasion.

### **Chili Cook Off**

Barbara Murphy handed out flyers for the Chili Cook Off, taking place from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22, at the Esplanade. Currently, 14 chefs are confirmed (15 being the maximum number). Sponsorships to date have raise \$2,300 for the event. The Southwest Home Brew Club will be participating. Students from Marco Island Academy will be contacted to volunteer for set-up and clean up. Press releases have been sent to local papers.

### **Scholarship Committee**

Marty Roddy reported three students received \$2000 each in scholarships for the 2016 school year. By consensus, the board approved allowing recipients to apply for scholarships while working on a current degree even if the associated Fire Department member retires. In addition, the board agreed by consensus that a student falling behind in GPA average and failing to receive a scholarship one year could reapply for future semesters if the GPA is reached by the following year.

### **Cruise Raffle**

Cheryl Ferrara presented a history of Cruise Raffle sales and proceeds. The board agreed the Cruise Raffle was a valuable way to fund the Foundation's scholarship program. Steve Stefanides requested more emphasis be placed on scholarships when collateral materials are produced. The board will receive materials earlier this year and the drawing will be held at the Annual Meeting rather than the April Pancake Breakfast.

### **Foundation Website**

Cheryl Ferrara reported the Chili Cook Off article was now on the website. A congratulations to scholarship recipients and the April minutes will be added. The Cruise Raffle will go up as soon as materials are available.

### **Fire Chief's Comments**

- Firefighter/EMT Chris Bowden was named Firefighter of the Year by the South Florida Optimists.
- The COPCN report is almost finished with results to be available soon. City Council appropriated \$125,000 in next year's budget toward study/implementation.
- New promotions will be announced next week including Dave Batiato moving to Deputy Chief.
- The department will need to reprioritize its capital budget for Station #51 which is currently unusable until changes are made.

- While studying the cost of fire service, it was estimated Marco Island residents could pay more than \$14 million per year if rolled into the super district of Collier County. Currently, Marco Island residents pay slightly over \$6 million for service.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2016, at the Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Ferrara  
Secretary