

Golden Gate Point Association Newsletter

April 2007

Carol Kopeck, Editor



Golden Gate Point's annual picnic will be held this year on April 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. on the roof top of the Phoenix. To make a reservation, please send a check for \$18.00 per person to Pat Hooley, 590 Golden Gate Point #4, Sarasota Fl 34236. The price covers the cost of food and drink. Pat must receive the checks by April 18.

So come join the fun; meet your neighbors and admire the panoramic view of GGP from this scenic outlook.

Message from the President....As of March 31 our membership has increased to 91, a larger number than we have ever achieved. I want to thank Betsy Henning for her letter to newcomers which helped us to grow and I especially want to invite our new members to the annual picnic on April 21. This is a good time to get to know your neighbors, learn about your association and find out what you can contribute. If you have not yet paid this year's dues, please do so before April 9 so we can put you in our directory. I would like to be able to distribute the directory at the picnic. Our regular Board meetings are held the third Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Phoenix roof top meeting room. Please feel free to attend any meeting. As our streetscape project gets underway, we want to make sure everyone on GGP understands the scope of this project and how it will affect each resident. Please help your Board in their efforts to make GGP the premier neighborhood in Sarasota.

Denise Watermeier, President

DESIGN CONCEPTS EXPLAINED AT GGP SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Golden Gate Point Association held on March 31 to review the streetscape concept design and to vote on whether we should submit a proposal for a neighborhood park to the county was attended by more than 50 residents. Also in attendance were Alex Davis-Shaw, City Engineer; representatives of construction firm Wilson Miller; representatives of landscaping firm Dave Johnston and our City Commissioner Mary Ann Servian.

Mitch McKnight, project engineer for Wilson Miller, described the graphics of the final concept plan. The plan uses two 11 foot driving lanes, 17 foot perpendicular parking and landscaping areas and 7 foot sidewalks on both sides of the street (excluding the area in front of Pier 550). The street will be curved to slow down traffic and present attractive vistas to a driver. There will be a three way stop sign at "stem" area to provide safe pedestrian crossings. The streets will be paved with bricks to match those used by the Ritz Carlton. The sidewalks, gutters and parking areas will be concrete. The plan features new trash and dog refuse containers, pendant light fixtures, a pull-off area close to newspaper rack as well as new underground wiring, sewers and an irrigation line. McKnight explained that according to city standards we currently have 81 parking places. In the new plan there is now 124 places, although we will lose several when places for handicapped parking are included. The majority of the parking is perpendicular but there is parallel parking along the southern end of the point. Because the curve obstructs driver's views and in order to maximize parking, the inside of this segment was designed with parallel parking. Construction on the road is scheduled to begin early next year.

Phil Smith, of Dave Johnston Landscape architects, explained the decorative and planting concepts. The pendant lights were chosen because they focus light down and do not shine in windows. He suggested a monument style entry sign be put in the median in the "stem" part of our road or it could be put closer to John Ringling Blvd. The planting scheme will unify the area as well as provide shade, color and a screen to parked cars. He spoke of using Black Olive and Mahogany trees for shade and palms to provide a tropical accent. For color he plans to use Gold trees, Pink Trumpet trees and Crepe Myrtle. There also will be notches in the curbing for unobtrusive parking for trash receptacles on pick-up days. (continued on back page)

Return to:
Pat Hooley
590 Golden Gate Point #4
Sarasota, FL 34236

BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

At the annual meeting, Clark Brink and his committee of Lothar Sasche and Jane Frances announced the award of the Beautification prize to The Grand Riviera. It was accepted by owner/developer, Angus Rogers. Resident Bob Roscamp described the statue, "I Pledge Allegiance" by Glenna Goodacre in their front courtyard which is part of his collection of statuary. The Beautification Award plaque, which has been restored, will soon be on display.

NEW OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

The new members of the GGP Board elected at our annual meeting are Betsy Henning and Ron Ward. Betsy is co-owner with her husband, Bill, of Aero-Flo Inc. a company which supplies environmental products to the construction industry. She lives in Majestic Bay. Ron Ward, who moved to Sarasota in 1996, lives in La Bellasara for most of the year returning to Minnesota in the summer. He is a retired engineer who is committed to helping improve the Golden Gate Point neighborhood.

Returning members are: Denise Watermeier, Carol Kopeck, Lothar Sasche, Clark Brink and John Dent. Pat Hooley will continue as treasurer. At the first Board meeting, Denise was elected President, Betsy, Vice President, Carol, Secretary.

MEETING (CONTINUED)

During the question and answer period, several residents had concerns about parking and road upkeep. Brent Parker explained that while potholes should be fixed, all other city monies for upkeep will be part of the city's addition to the streetscape project. Commissioner Mary Ann Servian announced that if a resident had no satisfaction getting an illegally parked car moved to call her at 400-8521. When asked why the plan did not use angle parking, Brent explained that angled parking can only be used from one direction and would not give us as many parking spaces. A Golden Gate Point entry sign was discussed. The majority of those present preferred to have a sign similar to Ritz Carlton placed on John Ringling Blvd. Gas lights were also mentioned and the Board will look into the possibility of using them. The concept plan and its details can be viewed on our web site or on the roof top of the Phoenix.



THE HEDGE TEAM

Service you can trust...
Performance you can count on.
From the Ritz to
The Grand Riviera
Michael Saunders & Co.
Licensed Real Estate Brokers
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hedgeteam@aol.co.
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Is there a camera enthusiast in the neighborhood who would be interested in becoming the official photographer for the newsletter? Contact me at carolkopeck@hotmail.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK: A discussion was held on whether we want to submit a proposal to the County to be considered for a neighborhood park. The park would be under county control and they would set the rules. It was unclear whether dogs would be able to use it. There was concern about use by others, especially homeless. Also concern was voiced that others using park would also be using our parking places. Carol Green made a motion that we not submit a proposal. The motion was seconded by Dick Zoellner. The motion passed.