

First Annual HOA Presidents' Summit

By Scott Sherrill

On Friday, August 1, the town of Pine Knoll Shores hosted its first annual Homeowners Association Presidents' Summit. More than 20 of the town's HOAs were represented and had the opportunity to socialize and interact with each other and town representatives. Approximately 40 people were in attendance.

This event stemmed from the town's strategic plan and directly correlates with the action item "Establish an annual meeting of all town HOA leaders/managers" under the Community Involvement objective of "Seek and support civic activity to bring citizens together." The event also related to the Residency/Commercial Development objective of "Maintain small-town character through accessibility to town government," which calls for making town staff, elected officials and committee members more available to the public. Both government accessibility and community involvement were incorporated into the Board of Commissioners' 2014 Annual Agenda.

The evening began with 30 minutes of socializing and fellowship over hot dogs and hamburgers. This part of the event was crucial for providing attendees a chance to mingle and meet some new faces. It also provided an opportunity for the presidents to compare issues, share experiences and discuss solutions.

After the initial socializing period, Mayor Ken Jones made a few introductory remarks and introduced town elected officials, staff and volunteers in attendance. The mayor; four members of the Board of Commissioners; all town department heads; and representatives of the Planning Board, Community Appearance Commission, History Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Fire Auxiliary, Community Emergency Response Team and *The Shoreline* were in attendance.

The mayor offered to attend any HOA meeting and encouraged attendees to call or email if they had any issues or items they wanted him to address at their meeting. The mayor reminded attendees that recent ordinance changes would permit part-time residents to serve on town committees. Town Manager Brian Kramer reminded attendees that staff is also accessible.

The event was structured to start dialogue between the town and its HOAs. After the introductions of each HOA representative in attendance, the mayor opened the floor for questions and comments. The majority of questions were related to recent happenings in town: tree ordinance legislation, sidewalk construction, crosswalk safety, mosquito spraying, etc. The event was not just about the dialogue between the town and HOAs, but also about conversation between HOAs. A prime example of this was when an HOA representative mentioned that he had an issue with tents being left on the beach during the summer, and another HOA representative shared that his association had encountered the same issue, but had been able to resolve it through enforcement of their restrictive covenants.

The concept of the summit was very well received by attendees and those who were invited but unable to attend. The event was designed to be the start of the conversation, and indications are that the conversation continues.



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PINE KNOLL SHORES COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

By Yvette Bannen

The August 13 Board of Commissioners' meeting started with three presentations. The first was the Team Member of the Quarter (ending in June), presented to Dan Law for serving as photographer for town events and *The Shoreline*. Sally Carbrey returned the Warrior Trophy to the town that was won by her late husband Bruce Carbrey at the 2013 K4TW event. It was Bruce's wish that the trophy serve as an inspiration and a reminder that our warriors must be cared for. A check for \$80,000 raised during the Kayak for the Warriors events was given to Hope for the Warriors®, and certificates were given to various people who were involved in the fund-raising events.

The consent agenda was approved, including the charge to the tax collector to mail the 2014 bills during August.

Town Manager Kramer gave his monthly report on various ongoing projects in town. The sidewalks at the Hampton Inn location and from Pine Knoll Boulevard to the Public Safety Building area are proceeding, although the rain set things back. Regarding the Smart Meters, depending on the terms of the contract, it will cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000 to install the meters if town employees cannot do this. The stormwater system was used for the first time after a very rainy July, followed by over six inches of rain in the first four days of August. As a result of the system, there was no flooding on Juniper, Yaupon or Willow Roads. The cost to pump 1.7 million gallons of water was \$2,660. In September, edging of the roadways will begin with the intent of helping stormwater dissipate instead of ponding on the road. There was discussion about fertilization of the beach grasses that help stabilize the sand on the beach. Prior to the rededication of Veterans Park in October, ideas are being sought for an appropriate memorial to honor the Vietnam veterans at a cost of approximately \$1,000.

The sidewalk survey questionnaire was approved as amended after more discussion.

Under new business, there was a FY 2014-15 budget amendment reflecting changes in revenue, grants and fees. Commissioner Edwards pointed out that the Hurricane Arthur debris cleanup cost just over \$50,000. Since this was not a FEMA event, the town had to draw the necessary revenue from the Storm Emergency Designated Reserves.

Five members of the town's History Committee were reappointed: Martha Edwards, Ted Lindblad, Phyllis Makuck, Chairman Walt Zaenker and Michelle Powers. There is one vacancy. There was also an ordinance name change from the Historical Committee to History Committee.

The next Board of Commissioners' meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, at town hall, and the Citizen Academy starts September 9 at 8:30 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.



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