

Alliance of Delray Residential Associations Meeting Summary March 4, 2024

President Lori Vinikoor opened the meeting at 9:30 AM in the Auditorium of the Morikami Museum and Gardens. Updates provided included a reminder that dues are due. Also, The Annual Breakfast will be held on Friday June 21, 2024. Presidents, Delegates, and Alternates will receive invitations. There will be a July 3, 2024 in-person meeting this year which will feature a candidates forum with those running for State Attorney, Public Defender, and County Court Judge Group 2.

Captain Sandt of District 4 PBSO provided a security update. The Captain reported that crime trends are down. PBSO is disincentivizing the groups that have been perpetrating high end auto thefts especially along the Lyons Road corridor; they are now displacing themselves from Delray Beach. Increased traffic on Lyons Road is due to construction. Traffic crashes are down 7 %. Honda products are still a target of thefts and PBSO is recovering the vehicles down in Broward County. Captain Sandt indicated that people should park their cars close to lighting in a parking lot and do not leave valuables in the car. There will be a March 23 rd annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Delray Marketplace.

Chief Bill Stansbury of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Battalion 4 reported that more stations are being built. Station 49 on Lyons Road north of Atlantic in the Agricultural Reserve broke ground. The station will increase response time by 4 minutes for the area served. There is also another being constructed at Military Trail & Le Chalet Blvd. Battalion 4 is the busiest in the County. In February there were 3037 calls which represent 1000 more calls than the second busiest fire station in the County located in the West Palm Beach area.

Jennifer Cirillo, Director of Palm Beach Parks and Recreation was the keynote speaker. She began by explaining the vastness of the 8,668 acre park system comprised of 110 parks (11 of these locations are undeveloped future park sites).

Accomplishments of the Department this year include:

- Overall contribution to economic impact through Sports Tourism \$10.2M, along with 14,512 room nights and 17 events.
- The Aquatics Division successfully taught swim lessons to 979 participants in partnership with the Drowning Prevention Coalition and Red Cross. Additionally, 46 students received their free lifeguard certification through an innovative pilot program funded by the Children Services Council of Palm Beach County.
- Adapted to increased demand for our facilities through innovation and resourcefulness. Added 38 pickleball courts in the last three years by mostly repurposing older rinks and courts. Harnessed partnerships and secured grants as evidenced by Soccer 5 concession and Orange Bowl field / neighborhood center.

Following a description of challenges and goals for 2024 which include addressing aging infrastructure and strained financial and human resources, Director Cirillo encouraged the audience to view the Parks and Recreation informational video at <https://youtu.be/wiTJHxVKDJU> and to consider volunteering by visiting <https://discover.pbcgov.org/parks/General/Volunteer.aspx> .

The meeting ended at 10:55 AM. The next meeting of the Alliance of Delray will take place on April 3, 2024 back at the South County Civic Center and will feature Palm Beach County Mayor Maria Sachs with a Palm Beach County Update and Megan Houston, Director of the Office of Resilience with a presentation on Climate Resilience in Palm Beach County. Many of the members and audience present enjoyed a complimentary pass and walked through the Morikami Museum and Gardens following the meeting.

Submitted by S. Borrellie, Director