

The PSJRA Welcomes Two New Directors

I have heard general comments recently about the composition of the PSJRA Board of Directors. Since the boundary expansion, the directors have discussed this topic at length. The process to make the board “all that it can be” is commonly known as “board development,” and it is actually a very specific process, organized to reach a very specific goal: fulfilling the mission of the organization. A capable, committed and informed board is essential to not only achieving our goals but ultimately bears the fiduciary and legal liability for the operations of the PSJRA.

We applaud the initiative of everyone who has expressed interest in sitting on the board. While the board, by statute, can have no greater than nine directors, the advisory committee provides an additional forum for involvement for interested individuals. The PSJRA board meetings are open to the public, with public comment available every regular meeting. Your voice is important from whatever “seat” you may occupy. The point is, only two directors can be appointed at this time, and we encourage all who have expressed interest to remain involved in some capacity.

Board development encompasses more than the expressed interest and dedication of time of individuals and is actually similar to creating a winning sports team. The players represent a variety of skills required to fill positions on the team. Recruiting talented players and training them to play their best are key ingredients. Board members (players) join an organization (team) for a limited amount of time and pledge their personal and professional resources to advance the mission of the organization—to be “winning” team. The rotation continues annually, and board development is an ongoing process.

Beyond filling key positions, members must share a duty of loyalty to the organization, its staff, other board members, as well as the missions of the City and County. While differences of opinion are sure to arise, board members should keep disagreements impersonal and handle any conflicts openly and in a professional manner. By practicing discretion and affirming decisions arrived at on a majority basis, board unity and public confidence are promoted.

The PSJRA is poised to welcome two new board members to fill the vacancies created by retiring directors John Hendry and Bob Windolf. Our gratitude goes out to John and Bob for the service they have rendered; each have contributed in significant ways to our success. We are fortunate that Bob intends to continue his involvement through the Advisory Committee, and John has graciously extended an open-door policy for our frequent conversations and brain-storming sessions. And as expressed on prior occasions, I want to continually thank all the directors who have served since the inception of the redevelopment agency; you have each contributed greatly to our ability to progress at this time.

The City Commissioners (and we are indebted to them for their careful consideration) will appoint the two new directors from a list submitted by Chair Trish Warriner. The list contains several names of individuals who expressed an interest and are qualified per statute to serve: they reside or are engaged in business within the PSJRA boundary. The new directors will be provided with a rather daunting amount of

information—their “rule-book”—to learn...immediately. Yes, the time commitment is not unlike having a part-time job. And to our new directors we say, “Thank you and welcome aboard!”

All are encouraged to join us for our next board meeting on Thursday, April 12, at 5 PM at the Fire Station. In the meantime, call any time: Gail Alsobrook, 850-229-6899 or gail@CelebratePortSaintJoe.com.