

Tierra Verde Business Partnership meeting minutes 3/1/17

TVBP President Hunter Grose called the March meeting to order at about 12:05 on 3/1/2017. He commended Tony & Nello's for hosting the partnership as this was the first time for this popular Italian restaurant.

Around the room introductions were given then Doug Izzo gave a Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce run-down (see www.tampabaybeaches.com).

Inserts of the TVBP directory are presently in 12,000-plus copies of the Island Reporter; next inserts planned for this summer in Paradise News. So a limited number of advertising spaces are available.

Bob Mueller, co-chair of the 6th Annual Classic Car & Truck Show, briefed the 42 people in attendance about the Easter weekend event. April 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. will see the downtown parking lot filled with vintage cars and trucks. CarShowSponsor@tvbp.biz is set up to take sponsorships or pick up a form locally. The gathering of vehicle buffs will donate proceeds to the Eckerd College Search & Rescue Team, a program that benefits all Tampa Bay boaters and water enthusiasts. Event includes Taste of Tierra Verde, music, vendors and more. Bob said if TVBP members want a table in the tent, to let committee know.

2017 Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, March 26, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at TV Fire Station, 540 Sands Point Dr. Tickets in advance are \$5, available at fire station. \$7 on morning of event.

In place of July 5 social, TVBP plans a luau/pig roast for June 28 or 29, organized by new TVBP board member Sharon Rastello. More to come on this but cost is \$12 for members and \$20 for nonmembers (spouses, employees, etc.).

FDOT engineer Kevin Lee and HDR Engineering Tom Quinn then gave a lively presentation on what to expect for the new Tierra Verde bridge. Lee said what to expect is essentially the same as what links Isla Del Sol to St. Pete Beach. The bridges will match except TV will have a two lane one; also bike trail east (left lane) and sidewalk west (right lane).

Using the descriptive "beautiful" a lot, Lee said the \$62 million bridge will not be a drawbridge but a fixed structure. "It's basically a mini of the (St. Pete Beach) bridge. Same slope. Trust me. It will be beautiful." From thinking about this to completion will be an astonishing 14 years, from the FDOT's viewpoint.

So the timeline now is to have a completed contract by December 2017, begin construction in 2018 and have a finished product by 2022. That's four years of construction. But the old bridge will be used for traffic during this time. Some side benefits will be a fixed seawall at 7-11 and "remilling" of Rt. 682 (resurfacing some portions of Bayway).

A bike lane will extend to the Isla community, hooking up with what's already in place.

Lee along with Quinn explained other details such as lights, Dolphin artwork underneath bridge and other pluses. Plus, after a five year traffic study, Lee said, the plan decided on is to install a round-about. Lee said he wore his engineer hat when going with this "safety first" concept with FDOT approval. The bridge will have limited curvature and flashing beacons so vehicles will know to slow as the Maddona/Bayway round- about approaches.

TV has a higher channel than our neighbors but there will be no dredging. And once again, FDOT emphasized the bridge will have the same slope as SPB. Some TVBP audience members were less than delighted with the round- about news. But Quinn offered that coming over the bridge, there will be no obstructions. Cars can see other drivers plus the round- about will have nothing (no fountain, for example) in the middle.

To answer more questions, FDOT plans a community-wide meeting March 23 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Pass-A-Grille community center. More info on this at TVBP web site.

Next TVBP meeting is a social at Island Grille, April 5 at 5:30 p.m. Hunter called the luncheon at around 1.