

Men's Coffee Group Minutes – October 22, 2013

John Adams started the meeting at 9:00 am

The first speaker was Vince Marchesani who talked about the safety committee activities, projects, and sub-committees. Vince advised that the committee tries to anticipate areas where accidents may occur and suggest solutions to alleviate the possibilities. Two areas he mentioned were the parking around the post office where the congestion caused by cars parking and leaving could cause an accident. The suggestion is to not have a mail drop-off box by the office, instead have a drive-by mail box near the car wash. The change would direct traffic flow and not make a person park the car to mail a letter. Another suggestion is to make the parking lots around the town center one-way in and out. This change would again improve traffic flow and reduce the chances of accidents. This change must be approved by the City of Bonita Springs.

Next Vince spoke about safety sub-committees. To be effective, the subcommittees need volunteers to (1) Monitor mold and algae, a slip hazard; volunteers can augment the Homeowners' Association efforts by donating their time and the use of their power wash equipment to clean the sidewalks in their area. (2) Look at ways to prevent bears from coming into VillageWalk; for example, using electric fencing or higher walls (at the moment Pulte won't pay for this) (3). Review the procedures and post orders for the guards at our entrance. (4) Encourage appropriate security in the home by using the home security system even if the system is not connected to ADT (perhaps ADT could talk to the group) and (5) Revisiting the emergency response plan to revise it as needed.

The second speaker was Kris Gangsaas. Kris told us about the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) group in Village Walk. The team in VillageWalk is made up of about 26 men and women from VillageWalk. They were trained by the Bonita Springs Fire District with basic first aid and work under the direction of the Fire Department. The mission is to be the first responder in an emergency incident while waiting for the Fire Department to arrive. The order of response is to first take care of yourself, then family and home and then the community. If there is an incident not in VillageWalk, the team could be called out by Fire Department to help with searches outside VillageWalk, to assist the Fire Department while they conduct fire rescue training at the fire station, and other tasks not involving VillageWalk. The team is made up of active and passive members, Training is done at some of the monthly meetings and quarterly at the fire station,

The two main differences between CERT and the safety committee is (1) CERT works for the Fire Department and the safety committee is part of the Homeowners Association and (2) the safety committee is proactive, CERT's role is largely reactive.

After the group was told that when there are high winds of 35 mph, the main gate guards will leave VillageWalk and emergency response teams will not respond. This revelation was the start of a lot of spirited discussion from the group. There was no resolution since the policy was not something under our control.

The meeting ended at 9:55 am.