

## Earning Community Support

“Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.”

Woodrow Wilson

Woodrow Wilson proposed this phrase as one of his 14 points following the end of World War I. It has become a catch-phrase often used to encourage transparency in the dealings of government and various public entities. The Drum Point Board of Directors and the committees preparing the proposed Special Tax District 2013-2014 have followed this dictum in an effort to keep the community-at-large informed and supportive of their efforts and reasoning.

With less than one year remaining in STD 3 - as amended, the DPPOA Board of Directors appointed an STD Committee, comprised of Board members and asked for community volunteers to assist in planning for the next STD. Meetings of this committee were open to the public and announced on the DPPOA website - [www.dpboa.org](http://www.dpboa.org). Input from the standing Budget Committee included the availability of funds being carried over and estimates of expenditures for the remaining life of the current STD.

Many meetings were held, hammering out the details of the minimum amounts of funds needed to maintain the community and preserve its present condition. Following each meeting, decisions were made regarding the preparation of the Draft petition to be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. Board members, in Drum Point, are elected “at large” meaning that no one Director represents any specific area of the community. Each Director represents every member of the community, whether in ‘good standing’, meaning having paid their voluntary Association dues, or not. Final approval by the DPPOA Board of Directors of the draft petition was received on October 11, 2011 and immediately posted on the DPPOA website.

In addition, articles explaining the philosophy of the new STD proposal were included in the Fall and Winter editions of the newsletter (articles attached) as well as periodic website and e-mail releases.

Two community-wide Forums were held at the Drum Point Club, one on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> in the morning and another on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> in the evening to allow as many as desired an opportunity to attend at a convenient time. These meetings were publicized through public service announcements on local radio stations, news releases, paid newspaper advertising and community-wide e-mails. Signs were also placed at the various entrances to Drum Point to serve as reminders of the meetings. At each meeting, a ‘straw poll’ was taken to determine support for the proposal. In both cases, more than 80 per cent of the attendees supported the petition.

After these meetings, changes were made in the petition in response to community-wide input.

At the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors, a few residents presented a revised budget for the proposed Special Tax District, calling for a \$73 per lot assessment.

At the December 10<sup>th</sup> DPPOA General Membership Meeting, DPPOA President Gary Heal presented the proposed DPPOA STD Budget Submission as well as two alternative budgets; the first being a “Wish List” of all projects that could be undertaken, including the dredging of Anchor pond and the immediate rejuvenation of all Drum Point Roads, requiring a \$320 per lot assessment. The other budget discussed was the one submitted by the group of residents.

A “straw poll” was taken at the end of the meeting with some 80 per cent of the attendees indicating support of the Board of Directors draft petition in the amount of \$166 per lot per year.

The final petition and budget therein was approved at the December 20<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting